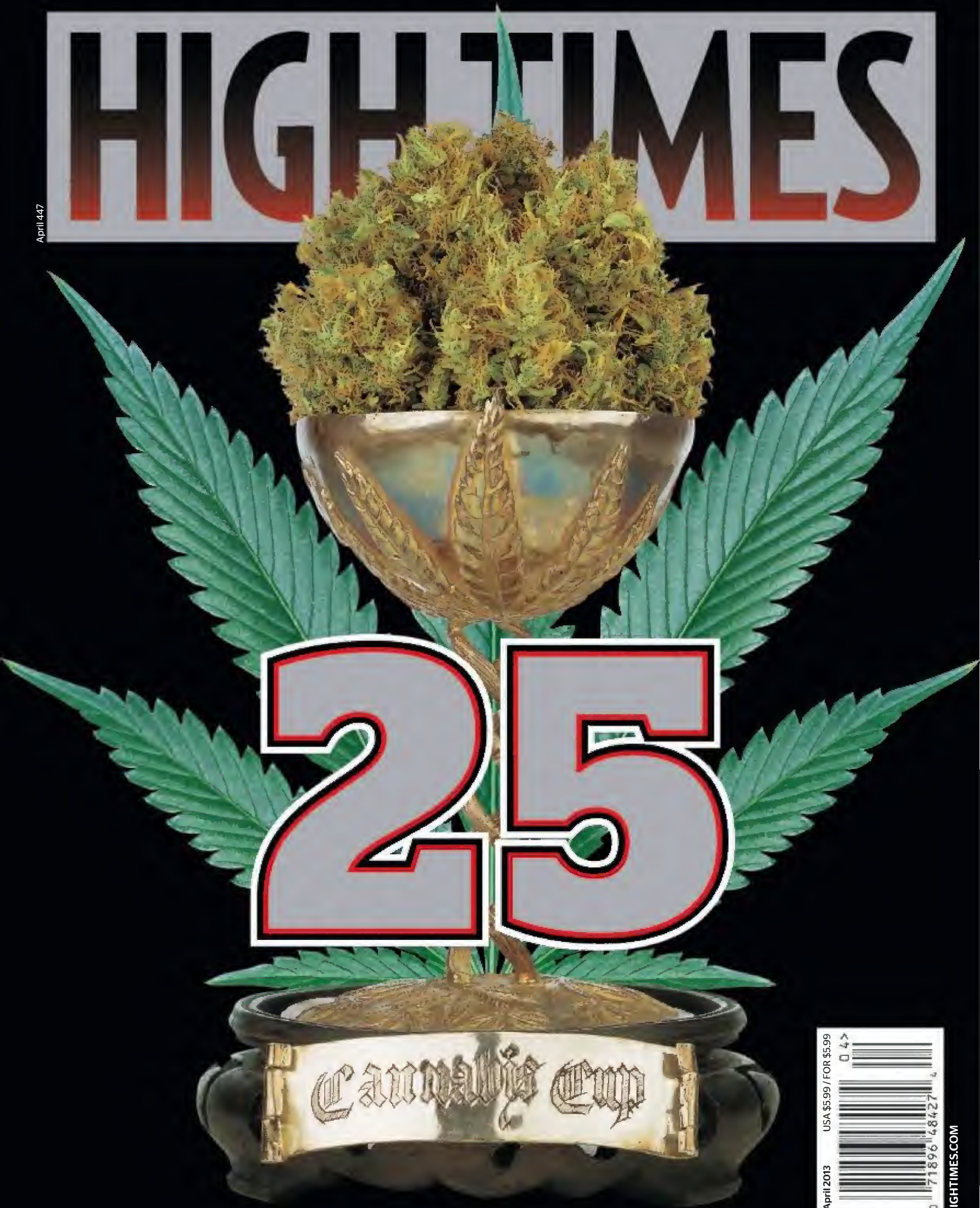


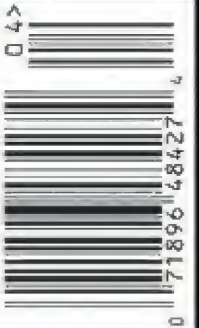
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HIGH TIMES

April 4/7



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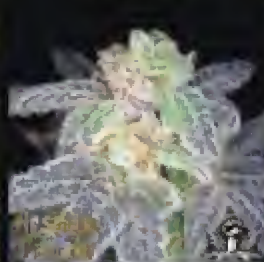
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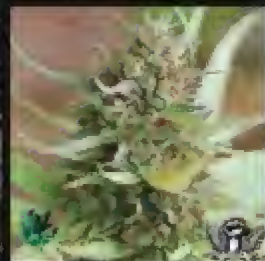
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HIGH TIMES APRIL



Over the past quarter of a century, the seed that Steve Hager planted by founding the Cannabis Cup has grown to become a global beacon of freedom for all those who still suffer intolerance, injustice and harsh punishments for loving a harmless green herb.

—The Cup Rolls On, page 45

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45 The Cup Rolls On

At the 25th Annual Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam, the global ganja movement came together to savor the sweet smell of victory, smoke pot in peace, and celebrate the finest herb on Earth. Plus: Full coverage of all the winning cannabis strains and concentrates!

By David Bienenstock

72 The Dawn of Reefer Madness

Back in the 1930s, Harry Anslinger was appointed head of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics. His subsequent disinformation campaign against cannabis has become legendary, but perhaps the most outrageous lie he told concerned a man in Tampa, FL, who murdered his entire family with an ax, supposedly while he was high on weed. Here's the true story.

By Paul Guzzo

78 Ultimate Lighting

Proper lighting is essential for healthy plant growth, but which kind should you use: high-pressure sodium? Metal halide? LEDs? Try mixing and matching until you've created the best possible system. *By Erik Biksa*

84 High in the Lowlands

How did Amsterdam become the first 420-friendly city? It began in the '60s when a couple of activists sold some pot plants from a houseboat and called themselves the Lowlands Weed Company. *By Bobby Black*

90 High Times Interview: Steve Hager

For more than 40 years, High Times' former editor-in-chief has devoted his life to counter-cultural journalism and cannabis spirituality. *By Paul Krassner*

Phantazieen Glas



2013

for

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Dellene Peralta heats up the glass community.



► Glass Artist of the Month

“Growing up in Albuquerque was like living in a mini LA,” says star glass artist Dellene Peralta. “It was home to a number of graffiti artists who were a huge inspiration in my artistic quest.”

Peralta’s parents were also artists, which helped set Peralta firmly on the artist path. But she left the New Mexico desert behind and moved to Eugene, OR, the undisputed capital of glassblowing.

She began creating glass pipes and jewelry in 1996. Her talent blossomed, revealing an eye for form and color, a hand for balance and proportion and a genuine talent with the 3-D element that characterizes glass artistry. In 2002, Peralta won the first annual Flame Off in Albuquerque, NM. All of the stars of the glassblowing community were on hand—a mostly male constituency—but Peralta’s beautiful sculpted Jerry Garcia hand holding a fairy dancing lightly in his palm took top honors.

Today, Peralta is widely recognized as one of the top female glass artists.

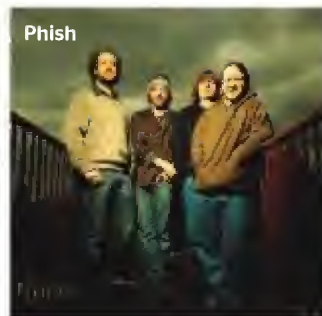
Check out samples of her amazing work at hightimes.com/glass.

POT POLL

Morality Poll Part Two

54%...Yes 46%...no

Two months ago, we asked: “If you were told that by your personal, singular act of giving up pot for the rest of your life it would thereby become free and legal for everyone else, would you give it up? Of the 440 respondents, 52.5 percent said no. We decided to up the ante with a twist to the question: “Would you still do this if nobody could ever find out that it was your singular act that was responsible for making pot free and legal?” This time 54 percent said yes. Do the results make sense? Not really. To be fair, there’s no way this scenario could ever happen. Our conclusion: Morality is more often debated than exercised. Check out our new poll that surveys our readers’ driving habits. Go to hightimes.com/polls.



► Get Buzzed With Jen

HT managing editor has just rung in the New Year with four nights of Phish at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Plus, she caught Rusted Root who celebrated the first day of 2013 with an awesome show. She’s a busy lady! Listen to Jen’s Music Stash as DRGN King stops by to promote their new album.

hightimes.com/thestash

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► Web Debut in Denver!

On April 20, we’ll be hosting our first-ever US Cannabis Cup in Denver. We’ve got a huge event planned, but we’re topping off the festivities with the formal relaunch of the *High Times* website. Presently, we’re working hard on all of the bells and whistles that promise to make our new digital world a total buzz for pot lovers around the globe.

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Miss April 2013

NAME: **Brandi Lee**

PROFILE: **Brandi Haze**

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Happy Amster-versary



This month, we celebrate a truly monumental milestone in *High Times* history: the 25th anniversary of our flagship event, the Cannabis Cup.

I'd only been working at *High Times* for two months when the publisher asked me if I wanted to fly to Amsterdam to work at the 7th Annual Cannabis Cup. I was 21, a senior in college, and had never even been on an airplane, let alone to Europe. It was a dream come true—a dream shared by millions of pot smokers around the world, who long to enjoy the herb they love in an environment free from persecution. Last year, that dream was threatened as the Dutch government prepared to enact a national “Weed Pass” law, which would have barred tourists from Amsterdam’s coffeeshops as of January 2013. It seemed likely that *HT*’s trip to the Netherlands this past November would be our last.

Thankfully, though, this was not the case. While we were there, Holland’s new justice minister announced that he would not be enforcing the policy nationally and would instead allow each city to decide for itself whether or not to implement the law. As we’d all hoped and expected, the city of Amsterdam officially opted out of the policy post-haste—clearing the way for another Cannabis Cup next year and for many more years to come.

Amazingly, I’ve attended a total of 17 Cups now. Only one other *HT* employee has attended as many—the man who created this event a quarter-century ago, our editor-in-chief emeritus Steven Hager. So it seemed only fitting that, for the silver anniversary of the world’s oldest and most famous cannabis competition, we should honor its founder by inducting him into the very Counterculture Hall of Fame that he created in 1997. (For more about Steve, check out this month’s *High Times* Interview.)

But we also wanted to pay tribute to the founders of Holland’s cannabis scene—the activists and entrepreneurs who helped make Amsterdam such a pot-tolerant city in the first place. Last year, we gave our first-ever Dutch Masters Award to Henk van Dalen from the Dutch Passion Seed Company. This year, we bestowed that honor on two more deserving Netherlanders: Nol van Schaik, owner of the Global Hemp Museum and the Willie Wortel’s cannabis shop in Haarlem (as well as the author of *The Dutch Experience: 30 Years of Hash and Grass Coffeeshops*); and Wernard Bruining, who opened Amsterdam’s very first cannabis coffeeshop, Mellow Yellow, and first grow shop, Positronics. In 1969, Bruining’s pal Kees Hoekert and his partner Robert Jasper Grootveld planted the seeds of Holland’s pot tolerance when they began selling marijuana plants from their houseboat. To learn more about how it all began, be sure to read my feature “High in the Lowlands.”

Speaking of milestones ... this issue also marks the 100th edition of my monthly column, Almost Infamous. You know, if I could go back in time, Bill and Ted style, to the fall of 1994 and tell my former self that in the future—nearly two decades later—I’d be one of *High Times* magazine’s longest-running columnists and that pot would be legal in two US states, his response would likely be, “Dude ... what have you been smoking?” And I would reply: “Why, the winner of the 25th Cannabis Cup, of course!”

Infamously yours,

Bobby Black
Senior Editor

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6. Finally, after your harvest, rotate your clones back up into the flowering chamber and repeat!

Grow Local

Your article in the January issue regarding buying grow supplies at Home Depot, looks very much like a sell-out. Did you take money for this “ad”? *High Times* has been known, in the past, to promote local businesses, whether they are dispensaries, grow stores or individuals. I hope you will reconsider encouraging people to shop at mega stores rather than their local grow store. Most local grow stores can get someone started in a closet garden for \$150.00 or less as well as, provide valuable information and service one would be very unlikely to find at a Home Depot or similar store. Think global, buy LOCAL.

Tracie Kolhoff
Grow Fast Gardens
Indian River, MI

Unfortunately, there aren't local grow stores in every city in the nation. We wish there were. This article was aimed at the beginning home cultivator who doesn't have a hydroponics shop in his town. Does that mean he shouldn't grow pot? Does that mean he should continue to pay dealers prices if he doesn't want to? *High Times* has always supported the small businessman, above and beyond any chain store, but for some folks, the mom and pop grow shop is not an option.

Free Advertisement

I was wondering, if I get “High Times” tattooed on my neck for advertisement would you pay me? Thank you.

Zach

We don't recommend you do this, either for fun or profit. You might want to pass through US Customs someday without a rubber-gloved Agent invading your, um, privacy.

The Wrong Kind of Grow Tip

I have a story for you. My husband has a MMAR card from health services. Last week his ex-wife called in a tip that we had an illegal grow and were dealing drugs. Two RCMP and two social workers came to our home. We were immediately forced to leave our home, and not allowed to return without electrical, ventilation and air quality tests. We of course passed with flying colors. The social workers, without consent, spoke to Brad's doctors trying to turn them against him. They also spoke to our landlord and tried to get him to sign a document that he didn't have knowledge of—all the while threatening him that he would lose his insurance and that his home would be worth half of its value.



I was wondering, if I get “High Times” tattooed on my neck for advertisement would you pay me?

They accused us of being drug dealers and threatened to take away our children. Because of this we now have no Christmas and my children were traumatized. We are launching a business to help others like us, a lawsuit and a media campaign against the ministry with the help of a lawyer.

Angela

Stealth Pay

I know that I sound a bit fanboy right now, but could you please consider bitcoin payments for magazine subscriptions? Having subscription details from *High Times* in bank statement is really not ideal in weed oppressive countries.

Heikiki

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Mary Jane is Innocent

The War on Drugs has been a daily issue. As a cannabis user, I believe that cannabis is a harmless plant that has the ability to help out all kinds of people with different diseases. Since I started smoking weed I'm still the same exact person, only

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I appreciate life a lot more. I just look at it in a different way. I'm following my dreams.

Anonymous

Come to Mass

I'm a Massachusetts resident and medical marijuana patient and wonder if you have any plans to feature future Massachusetts medical patients (their crops and strains that inevitably will come) when the laws regarding medical marijuana are enacted here? I'm a current California VALID card holder and am medicating for damage done in a motorcycle accident that happened the summer of 2011. I hit an 18-wheeler head on, on my bike. I broke my hip femur left forearm, and lost my spleen. Despite the pain I feel, doctors insist it's just “discomfort” despite the fact that I wake up crying from it sometimes. The pain I feel from the metal in my leg and

hip is not really severe enough to warrant taking opiates, but medical marijuana extracts with heavy *indica* content help me. Anyway, I hope you come out to Boston to have a Massachusetts Med Cannabis Cup.

Stay blazed,
P.H.

Hang tight, P.H., a *High Times* Massachusetts Medical Cannabis Cup is just what the doctor ordered. We want to do it and we will do it, but since the law was just passed we are still trying to figure out the details. In the meantime anyone from Massachusetts with something kind to show us can email me at hteditor@hightimes.com.

Loves Weed, Not Too Fond of Punctuation

Well im high right now but yeah mane. I love weed. Not just because its the thing to do but because of the fact that nothing but positivity has come since I have first come in contact wit de erb. No thats not a typo thats just the way I say it when im high....anywhooo. I could be the best interviewer ever for high times. No one can vouch for me though. You just gotta believe. You probably not gonna read this but yeah....gotta dream big bruh.

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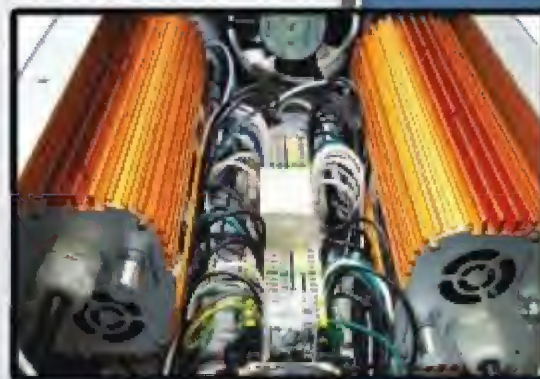
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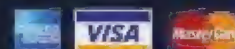


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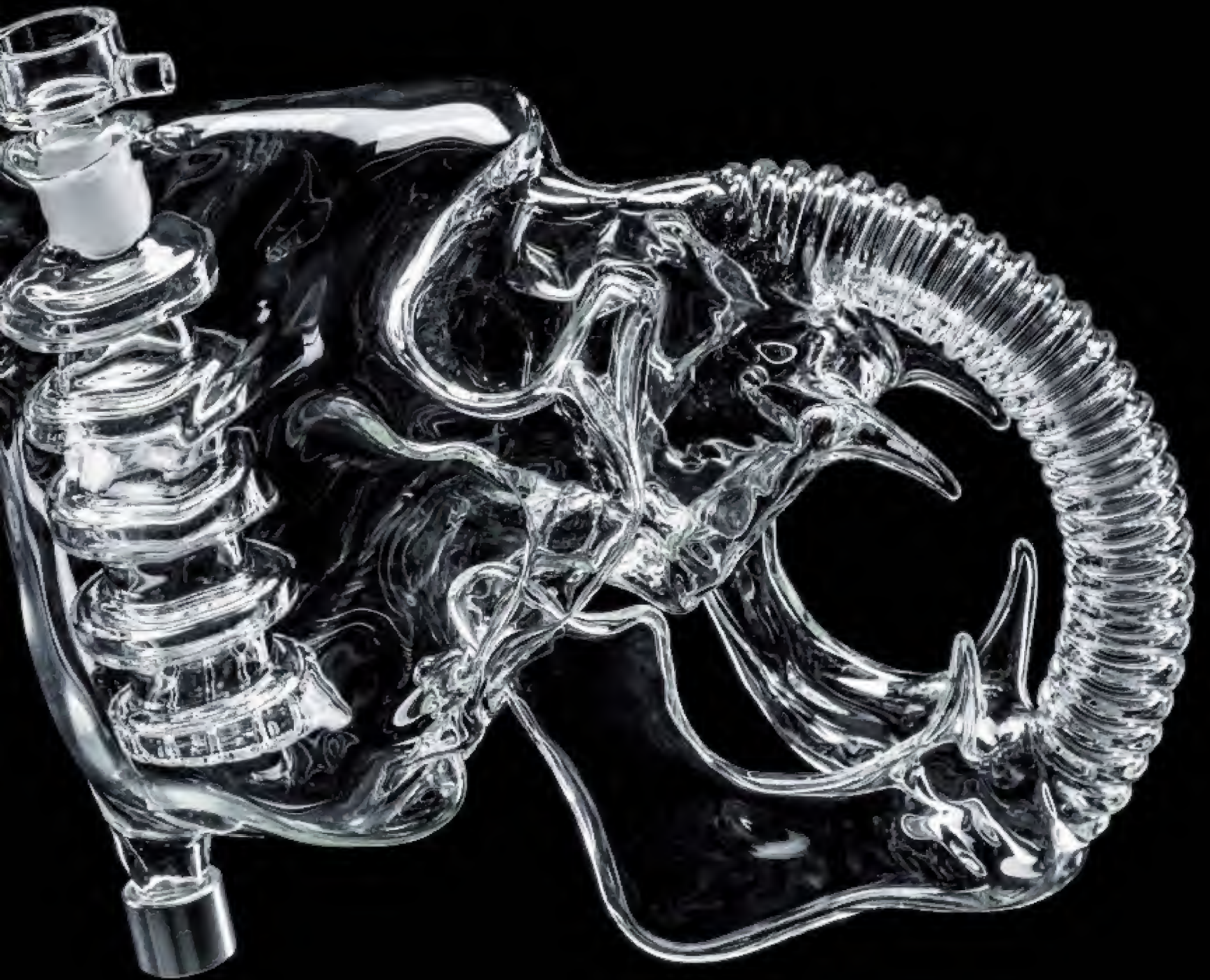




**Contact
High**

HEAD OF THE GLASS For the second year in a row, Roor of Germany walked away with top honors for glass at the 25th Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam. This year's creation was named "Drill Bill." It looks like a weapon from outer space. And guess what? It's perfectly capable of putting you there! *Photo by Christoph Ascher*





**Contact
High**

MEET YOUR DOOM With wafts of smoke permeating the air, MF Doom performed a high energy set to a capacity crowd at the Melkweg in Amsterdam. Doom and hype man Big Benn Klingon owned the stage during a headlining performance at the 25th High Times Cannabis Cup. Check out shots of all the Cannabis Cup performers starting on page 27. *Photo by Freebie*







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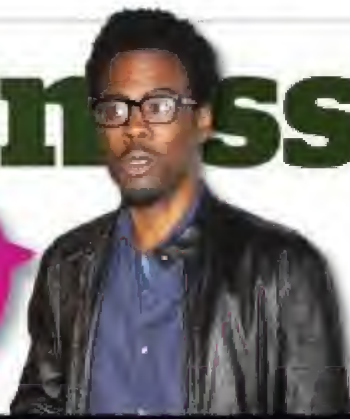


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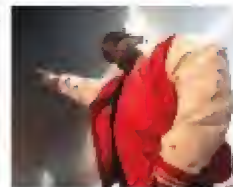
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Chris Rock weighs in on lazy stoners!



Entertainment
Sounds of the 25th Cup

Featuring Ghostface Killah & MF Doom. p.27



Food
Hemperor Stew

A dish named after the late, great Jack Herer. p.34



A seismic shift in public opinion on pot reverberates nationwide.



America's New Pot Point of View

The public is ready to end marijuana prohibition. Our task is to pave the road ahead. *By Paul Armentano*

America is at a tipping point regarding the public's desire for commonsense alternatives to marijuana prohibition. Never has there been greater public support for ending the nation's nearly century-long experiment with pot prohibition and replacing it with a system of legalization and regulation.

National polling affirms this sentiment. For example: a nationwide 2011 Gallup poll found that for the first time, more Americans support legalizing the adult use of cannabis than support maintaining prohibition. This finding is notable for several reasons. First, Gallup has been consistently assessing the public's opinions on this issue since 1969, when only 12 percent of voters said they backed legalizing pot. Even in the late 1970s—a time by which a dozen state legislatures had decriminalized minor marijuana possession offenses (largely replacing criminal penalties with a fine-only civil citation) and most others

had reduced cannabis-related felonies to misdemeanors—public support for legalization never topped 30 percent.

Some two decades later, in the early part of the 2000s, that number still remained below 30 percent—but not anymore. There has been a seismic shift in public opinion on this issue in just the past 10 years, with every demographic polled by Gallup steadily showing increased support from year to year for cannabis law reform.

Recent polling data by the respected firm Rasmussen Reports is even more favorable. A nationwide poll conducted last May found that 56 percent of Americans support “legalizing marijuana and regulating it like alcohol or cigarettes,” versus only 34 percent who oppose the idea. Perhaps most notably, a plurality of respondents from every age group polled favored legalizing cannabis, including 50 percent of those age 65 and older.

Recent polls by Angus Reid and other

pollsters have also consistently found over 50 percent support for ending prohibition, and a recent statewide Rasmussen Reports poll in Colorado showed a remarkable 61 percent of voters endorsing legalization.

This is unprecedented territory, but a careful review of these polls' cross-tabs reveals that advocates for cannabis law reform still have much work to do. Despite Americans' majority support for legalization, serious pockets of opposition remain. For one thing, an ideological gap exists along party lines: Self-described Democrats and independents favor marijuana legalization by far greater percentages than do self-identified Republicans. But the GOP is the controlling party in many states, particularly those where cannabis penalties remain disproportionately harsh, such as Arizona, Florida, Georgia and Texas.

Polls also reveal an age divide. Predictably, those from ages 18 to 65—who have

◀◀ likely had firsthand experience with cannabis—typically show far greater support for legalization than those over 65, many of whom likely have never consumed or even seen the plant.

And finally, a prominent gender gap exists. Men consistently support marijuana law reform in far greater numbers than women, typically by about nine percentage points. The task ahead of us is to address the opposition in these important demographics via grassroots outreach efforts—like the Silver Tour and the NORML Women's Alliance—in order to achieve reform at the ballot box and in local, state and federal government.

Furthermore, now that it's becoming evident that a majority of Americans support marijuana legalization, there needs to be a better understanding among advocates of what the public means when it uses this terminology. Do a majority of Americans want to see cannabis regulated like alcohol and cigarettes, or do they simply want adult marijuana consumers to be left alone? Do Americans favor taxing marijuana sales—and if so, how much should that tax be? Are most Americans comfortable with the idea of the licensed sale of pot in stores? If so, in

Recent polling and the victories at the ballot box show that, for the first time in modern history, a majority of Americans are ready to amend the status quo.

which types of stores would these sales take place—and to whom? Would producers and distributors be able to market and advertise their products like alcohol and pharmaceuticals? Is the voting public really ready to see advertisements for cannabis on television to the same degree that it already sees promotions for Viagra, Levitra and Budweiser?

If we as advocates hope to harness the public's rapidly changing views on pot and transform them into actual changes in government policy, then the marijuana law reform community must identify exactly what the public (and its elected officials) are ready to handle and proceed accordingly.

The recent Election Day results arguably provide us with an idea of what voters will—and won't—accept. Washington

State voters approved limited legalization, but without an option for home cultivation. In Colorado, however, voters accepted the notion of allowing home cultivation—but only within specified personal use limits. By contrast, Oregon voters rejected a statewide measure that proposed a more laissez-faire approach to cannabis cultivation and consumption.

There is probably no one-size-fits-all model for legalization. But recent polling and the victories at the ballot box show that, for the first time in modern history, a majority of Americans are ready to amend the status quo. It's now our job as reformers to better identify specific policy changes that voters desire and turn those wishes into political reality. ✨

Paul Armentano is the deputy director of NORML.

HIGH FIVE

The Weed Where People Hate Us

Many countries have beefs with America. Strained relations might be healed by native strains. *By Mark Miller*



Venezuela

Landrace Sativa
Venezuela's president, Hugo Chávez, rails against US intervention in South America. The US meanwhile, covets Venezuela's oil. But we covet Venezuela's landrace *sativa* known as "Venezuelan" or, more colorfully, Venezuelan Gold. (Landrace strains have adapted naturally to the environment of a particular region and were not systematically selected and developed by seed breeders or cultivators.) The Venezuelan is a yellow-hued, head-racing holdover from the 1970s.



Pakistan

Chitral Kush (a.k.a. Purple Pakistani)
Pakistan's relations with the US have become increasingly fraught in recent years. Osama bin Laden sympathizers harbored him in the country before he was killed in May 2011. Pakistan is a deadly foe of India, whom the US cultivates as an ally. But the *über*-mellow effects of this pure Pakistani *indica* could ease all of this mutual distrust. The deep purple and dark orange buds are aesthetically enchanting; the taste is unique even for a Kush strain.



Somalia

Somali Sativa
Somalia, embroiled in chaotic civil war, is a port for ruthless modern-day pirates. In 2009 a woman was publicly executed for selling pot. Rise above the madness with this traditional African landrace *sativa*, from seeds not systematically developed by cultivators. With a sweet pineapple taste, it also contains high amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THCV), the understudied cannabis compound native to African strains producing a unique high.



Syria

Revolution Reefer
President Obama wants Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad to step down because of Assad's brutal repression of the Syrian uprising. Yet despite the ongoing turmoil, pot production has increased in the country's agricultural regions, in large part to fund the revolution. But most of that pot is either destroyed by rival militant groups or sold across the border to Turkey. And you'd probably have to visit the Syrian capital of Damascus if you wanted to sample the sweet imported Lebanese Blond hashish.



North Korea

(Unnamed)
There's more Web info on North Korean *cannibalism* than cannabis. No surprise. This totalitarian, isolationist nation is afflicted by desperate poverty and is on the verge of yet another catastrophic famine. But pot possession is one of the few things *not* punishable by a firing squad here. The North Korean government permits cannabis cultivation alongside railroad tracks because the plant's powerful roots hold the tracks "tighter," while cannabis oil is utilized for industrial purposes.

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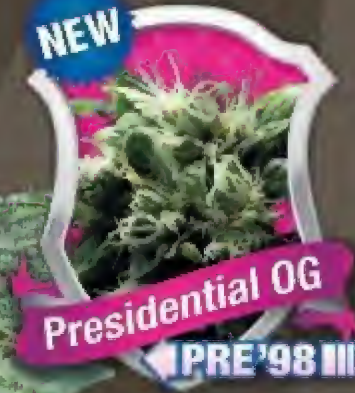
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The Power of Prayer—and Pot!

As reported by the *Sacramento Bee*, Canna Care in north Sacramento may be the only medicinal cannabis dispensary operated by evangelical Christians—Bryan and Lanette Davies. Bryan, 57, opened Canna Care in 2005—next to a church (which approves of the dispensary)—after being recommended medical pot following a diagnosis of a bone disease. Initially, Davies feared weed was a tool of the devil, but during a prayer session, he claims God spoke and directed him to open the dispensary.

At Canna Care, evening prayer sessions are available for those Christian patients who might like a spiritual pick-me-up when they purchase their buds. The Davies have dispensed over 3,000 Bibles, along with \$2 million worth of medicine annually.

The dispensary is a family affair. Lanette Davies' lobbying group, Crusaders for Patients Rights, worked to get 2010 regulations passed permitting 38 Sacramento dispensaries to remain open. The Davies' daughter Brittany, 22, is a pot patient and appeared in their TV ad, while 26-year old son Don holds a biochemistry degree and ensures that all medicine sold at Canna Care is fungus-free.

The Davies don't subscribe to a spiritual doctrine that defines cannabis as a sacrament; rather they regard it as healing medicine—though that alone makes pot sacred for many, regardless of religion.

Cup Stats

The ultimate honor at the Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam is the award for top strain as voted upon by the judges. For those keeping score, the Green House coffeeshop, which took the top prize at the 25th Cup, now has eight such Cups. Barney's has taken seven; De Dampkring and the Sensi Seed Bank have two. The Seed Bank, now defunct, also took two. The remaining four Cups were won by Noon, Homegrown Fantasy, Free City and Cultivator's Choice.



Canadian Conundrum

Health Canada recently proposed establishing the Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulations (MMPR). The nation's national health agency says it will offer easier access to pot patients.

However, regulations seem equally designed to crack down on alleged "illegal activity." Patients would be banned from growing cannabis, something they are presently able to do with a government permit. Worse, MMPR would raise the price of medical marijuana; current prices range between \$1.80 and \$5 per gram. The new price structure would increase the price to \$8.80 per gram.

Health Canada would cease overseeing the distribution of cannabis, as they have done since 2001. Under MMPR licensed, commercialized dispensaries would sell cannabis directly to patients. That may be a good thing. Cannabis cultivated by Health Canada has been bashed widely for its poor quality.

Patients would no longer be required to consult a specialist to legally use pot; a recommendation from their primary physician would suffice.

But many wonder whether MMPR provides any improvement in the system. Access to medicine might be easier, but the cost will be higher. And patients who grew their own medicine would have to adjust to new house rules.



Rock for Pot

Chris Rock has carved out quite a career for himself by saying what most of us are thinking but don't have the guts (or talent) to verbalize. He demonstrated the same candor recently while promoting the new romantic comedy *2 Days in New York*. Rock cited fellow comedian Seth Rogen as an example that should vanquish the unproven "amotivational syndrome" associated with pot forever.

Rock told *Vanity Fair*: "I'm all for the legalization of weed. I have two daughters, but we all know that alcohol is worse and legal. Seth Rogen is a productive member of society. Mel Gibson has a problem."

Americans Say “Back Off!”

A sizable majority of Americans—64 percent—don’t want the government enforcing federal pot laws in states that have legalized recreational marijuana according to a *USA Today*/Gallup poll conducted in late November. The most impressive stat may be that 43 percent of those who are opposed to legal pot *still* want the feds to back off.

Eighty-seven percent of those who support legal pot think federal pot laws should not be enforced. Respondents were also asked if recreational pot should be legal, and 48 percent—a number consistent with other recent polls—think it should be, with 50 percent of all surveyed believing it should remain criminalized.

Younger people (18-29) and Democrats/Independents are far more supportive of adult recreational use, compared to older demographics (65+) and Republicans, two-thirds of each group being opposed. The survey also showed that the majority of middle-agers (30-64) support legal pot.

Beal Behind Bars

Medical marijuana provider and Yippie Party co-founder Dana Beal was sentenced to 4-6 years in prison in December by a Nebraska judge after being busted with 155 pounds of medical marijuana in the tiny town of Ashland in 2009 while driving from California attempting to deliver medicine. At the sentencing hearing, witnesses testifying on Beal’s behalf traveled from as far as New Zealand, lauded him as a “visionary” who aided suffering patients by smuggling cannabis across the US, all while lobbying lawmakers to legalize it. Based on time served in Wisconsin for a pot bust there in 2011, Beal could be paroled in a year. That’s some good news for the 66-year-old activist who has suffered two heart attacks since 2011.



Vape Away the Pain

There have been several scientific studies in recent years that have determined that smoked medical marijuana successfully treats neuropathic pain. Neuropathic pain may result from disorders of the peripheral nervous system or the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord).

Now, new research specifically investigating the vaporization of medical marijuana and the management of such pain has been conducted by the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of California—Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

The results, published in the December 2012 edition of *The Journal of Pain*, found that even low doses of THC provide notable relief for patients suffering from neuropathy. UC-Davis researchers studied 39 patients suffering from neuropathic pain—both central (brain and spinal cord) and peripheral (all other limbs and organs). They inhaled medium-dose, low-dose and placebo cannabis from a vaporizer. Investigators discovered low-dose treatments (vaporized pot containing only 1.29 percent THC) were as effective as those of medium-dosage (3.53 percent THC).

Equally encouraging, psychoactive effects were reported as minimal and well tolerated; any neuro-psychological adversity was reversed within two hours at most, another advantage for patients whose daily functioning may be hampered by the “high” that THC produces. Researchers concluded the pain relief provided by low-dose vaporized pot for patients who continued to experience neuropathy, even though they were being treated with mainstream medication, to be a “clinically significant outcome.”

Unidentified Flying Ganja

These days, pot dealers in Mexico will do just about anything to get their product into the States. In Calexico, a California town bordering Mexico, 300 pounds of pot literally fell from the sky after an ultra-light aircraft dropped a package there before flying back into Mexico. But the pot plane drop wasn’t even the *weirdest* flying weed story from south of the border that week. In Arizona, 85 pounds of Mexican bud, packed in 33 cans, landed in Yuma after being shot 500 feet over the border from a pneumatic cannon. Unfortunately, the creativity was not rewarded. Border patrol agents seized the stash.

Lie-Witness News

FOX News’ unfair and biased, anti-pot agenda isn’t limited to disingenuous network blowhards like Bill O’Reilly. Clearly, it extends to its local affiliates.

FOX 31 Denver set up a simulator to test people driving under the influence of THC, with the anchor promising “shocking results of our one of a kind investigation.”

Well, it certainly was unique—given the fact that the reality of



the piece was altered.

Covert activist Max exposed the lie. Anticipating biased reportage, he went undercover with a camera of his own to expose FOX 31’s “objective test” which was rigged to ensure that stoned drivers fail.

His self-produced video,

which deftly intercut the FOX 31 report with his own clandestine coverage and commentary, went viral. Montrose got high at the simulator site and captured raw footage of his simulator car crashing—as he legally proceeded through a green light with the right of way. Montrose said he and other participants were forced to continue driving until they inevitably crashed. He also interviewed the FOX 31 cameraman who called the simulator test “ridiculous,” questioned its accuracy and said it felt more like “driving a truck.”

HIGHWIRE

Dispatches from the international drug war. *By Bill Weinberg*



Slinging dope for Allah.

Treasury Department Names Taliban Drug "Kingpin"

The US Treasury Department sanctioned a senior Taliban official on November 15 for his alleged role in the Afghan opium trade, saying the trafficking is used to finance insurgent activities. Mullah Naim Barich, the Taliban "shadow governor" of Helmand province, is named in the action, which freezes his assets in the United States.

"Today's action exposes the direct involvement of senior Taliban leadership in the production, manufacturing and trafficking of narcotics in Afghanistan and underlines the Taliban's reliance on the drug trade to finance their acts of terror and violence," said David Cohen, the undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, in a statement.

The Treasury Department has previously sanctioned Taliban leaders for supporting terrorism, but this marks the first time the department has designated a senior Taliban official as a narcotics "kingpin."

Brazil: Crime Wars Rock São Paulo

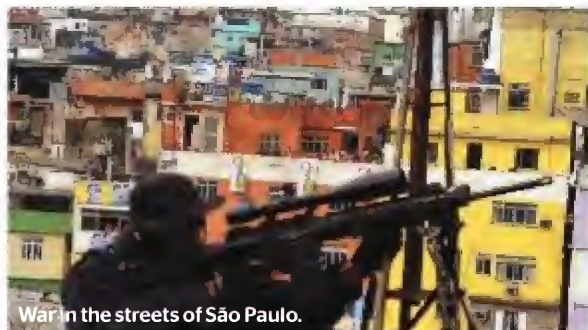
Brazilian police in November launched Operation Saturation, flooding the *favelas*



Gangster greenbud in Ireland.

Triads in Ireland?

The Garda Síochána, Ireland's national police force, says it broke up a network of drug gangs that were collaborating with Hong Kong-based triad syndicates in a series of indoor cannabis grow operations that produced much of the island's supply. The Garda Síochána's National Drugs Unit raided 236 premises and arrested 54 foreigners as part of the investigation, codenamed Operation Wireless. Police say 4,200 cannabis plants were seized in the cities of Dublin, Meath, Wexford and Cork. Many of those arrested are allegedly affiliated with the Wo Shing Wo, one of Hong Kong's most powerful triads, with globe-spanning operations in drug trafficking, human trafficking, prostitution and gambling.



War in the streets of São Paulo.

(shantytowns) of São Paulo with paramilitary police in a bid to crush the criminal network known as the First Capital Command (PCC). The operation comes in response to the PCC's campaign of assassinations targeting police officers and law-enforcement employees. So far this year, 95 officers have been murdered in and around the sprawling city, according to official figures—up from 47 in 2011. Most were ambushed off-duty by presumed gang members. Operation Saturation was launched after Marta Umbelina, an office worker for São Paulo's military police, was shot dead outside her house—and in the

sight of her 11-year-old daughter—on November 3. In one of the operation's raids, military police found what they said was a hit list with the names and addresses of 40 officers.

The violence exploded in May when six members of the PCC were killed in a shootout with an elite police unit. Local newspapers have called it an "undeclared war." In October alone, there were 176 murders in São Paulo city, and 571 in São Paulo state, mostly due to gang-on-gang violence. The number of homicides in São Paulo has jumped to almost 1,000 so far this year, largely concentrated in the *favelas*.

As Brazil prepares

to host the 2014 World Cup—including the opening games in São Paulo—leaders fear a public-relations disaster.



No fun in Acapulco.

Mexico: More Mass Graves

A total of 19 bodies were found in clandestine graves in northern Mexico's Chihuahua state, officials from the state prosecutor's office announced on November 26. The first 11 were discovered in a deserted area of La Colorada ranch, 40 kilometers southeast of Ciudad Juárez near the Texas border. The bodies are thought to have been buried there for two years. The victims, who were asphyxiated, shot or beaten, ranged in age from 18 to 40 years

and included US citizens. Information leading to the discovery came from the US consulate in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua authorities said.

That same day, eight more bodies were unearthed near Rosales, in Chihuahua's interior. These bodies were just two days old and bore multiple signs of torture. Some of the victims had been burned, beaten or had their eyes carved out before being shot in the head. Four more bodies were found along the highway near the mountain outpost of Creel.

The discoveries came on the same day that scores of protesters rallied in Mexico City calling for justice for the victims of drug-related violence. Two days later, Mexican

naval troops exhumed nine bodies from a clandestine grave in the Santa Cecilia *colonia* (neighborhood) of Acapulco, the resort city in southern Guerrero state. According to figures released earlier this year by Mexico's National Human Rights Commission, 16,000 bodies discovered in recent years remain unidentified and a total of 24,000 people are missing. ✨

For more updates, visit Bill Weinberg's websites, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.com.



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MF Doom fakes a stage dive during "Kon Queso."



Wu-Tang standout Ghostface Killah performs at the Cali Connection Homegrown Party.



Weed rap reigns supreme in Amsterdam.

Stage Lighting

This year's musical entertainment kept the Cannabis Cup aglow.

"This is fantastic! I'm going to really study this," vowed Queens rapper N.O.R.E. as he inspected the 30-plus strains of weed and hash sitting in front of him. In fact, this year's celebrity judges seemed to have a heightened sense of civic duty to the stoner community at large.

"We're smoking the winners—that's a lot of responsibility," laughed a well-lit Styles P, who spent all his waking moments slumped in a seat testing the best entries he could find. Styles, a founding member of the rap group the Lox, is already a staple in the weed world for his classic stoner anthem "I Get High."

No matter how good their intentions, though, a celebrity judge's job can often be a tireless grind. It's easy to get burnt out during the day shift, only to have to switch gears into artist mode at night, with little time to rest in between. Clearly up for the challenge was NYC turntable wizard Scram Jones, who launched the Cup's musical festivities. Scram, who has worked with legends like Snoop



N.O.R.E. samples Amsterdam's finest in the green room.



Styles P closes out the Cup.



Ghostface Killah of the Wu-Tang Clan had his own unique take on the week's events: "It's like the Christmas of weed."

Ghostface Killah is all smiles while examining an oil rig backstage at the Melkweg.



The elusive MF Doom reveals his love for weed—but not his identity.

Dogg and the Notorious B.I.G., admitted that this was a real bucket-list item for him.

The Cup's opening night Homegrown Party by Cali Connection, featured Ghostface Killah of the Wu-Tang Clan offering his own unique take on the week's events: "It's like the Christmas of weed. We come out here and perform, let the people get fried—it's just crazy." Rocking hit after hit from his classic catalog, Ghost closed out his show by inviting crowd members onstage to recite their favorite Wu-Tang lyrics. One fan did a spot-on, line-for-line impression of the late ODB. He had so much excitement infusing his performance that by the end of the verse he wound up puking off the side of the stage in what many called one of the best Cannabis Cup moments of all time.

The Cup's promise of honoring the best weed in the world was enough to attract even the elusive masked marvel MF Doom to Amsterdam for a show. The artist known for running his gigs like a well-executed robbery (and sometimes for even not showing up at all) chose to take a more laid-back approach during his performance at the Cup, interacting with the heavily stoned crowd. Dressed head to toe in weed-green attire (aside from his metal mask, of course, which is rumored to contain a Rodin coil), Doom was thankful for all the weed samples he was presented with backstage in his dressing room. "Overall, the Cannabis Cup is an uplifting experience," he said. "My only advice is, 'Beware the bike lane.'"

As the week ended, some of the artists took time to reflect on the unique freedom that Amsterdam offers. In his amazing performance closing out the awards show and the Cup, Styles P shouted from the stage: "Without potheads, the world would be fucked up!" Clearly moved by the experience, Styles used the opportunity to further motivate the weedheads of the world: "Remember, the fight for weed don't stop. Right now, we are part of history! You can't find a room full of higher people than this right now! We

don't care who's white, black, red or yellow—all we give a fuck about is the green."
Zoot Simms

Watch MF Doom perform "Kon Queso."



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Off! their rockers—veteran punx Rubalcaba, Morris, Coats and McDonald.

Getting Off!

Keith Morris and his band of hardcore veterans show the kids how it's done. *By John Payne*

It's the times, bud—everyone knows they bite the bag. So we're real, real glad to see the untamed, pissed-off likes of Off! treading the boards in this day and age. The Cali punk/hardcore supergroup is composed of be-dreadlocked ex-Circle Jerks/Black Flag singer-provocateur Keith Morris, former Burning Brides main man Dimitri Coats, Redd Kross bassist-singer Steven Shane McDonald, and the human octopus known as Mario Rubalcaba, who's whacked tubs with Earthless and Rocket From the Crypt.

"We are," says Morris, "the lucky guys who happened to be in the right place at the right time, because we're being bombarded with a lot of [*makes gagging sound*] horizontal music, and we get to add a bit of the vertical."

The band became an official unit when Morris quit the Circle Jerks after the other members of the band fired Coats, who'd signed on to produce the Jerks' new album and then, apparently, overstepped his bounds as producer. "I was very tentative about recording a new album with the

Circle Jerks anyway," he says, "because they would've opted for a producer who'd make it sound like every other band on the Warped Tour."

Funny thing is, the Jerk dudes had been prodding Morris to write some new songs, since they hadn't done

"Pot is a creative tool—a third ear pops out when I'm playing guitar. It's like picking riffs off the tree."

a new album in several years. "But nobody was coming up with anything, and one day people just stopped showing up for the recording sessions," he recalls. "Then Dimitri comes along, cracks the whip, we get in the studio and we start writing songs."

The end result: Off!'s eponymous full-length on Vice Records (which follows four initial EPs), an 18-minute, 16-song Ragnarök of rage 'n' release with only a few tracks that clock in at over 90 seconds. Titles like "Wiped Out," "Vaporized,"

"Toxic Box" and "Zero for Conduct" give you an idea where Off! are coming from, overarching-themes-wise.

"Yep," says Dimitri, "anger, disappointment, revenge and mental problems."

"And roses," affirms Morris. "A lot of beautiful, wonderfully smelling roses."

Between tour dates bringing the real tuff titty to a starving nation of 18-to-24-year-olds, Off! are already working on a new record.

"People feel we're refreshing, because what we do harkens back to a time when Keith was inventing this stuff," says Coats. "Maybe we're just the Ramones and we'll just keep writing the same song over and over again. But I think, on the next record, we need to throw some kind of curveball."

"Yeah," says Morris, "the first track will be 18 minutes long, and then there'll be one

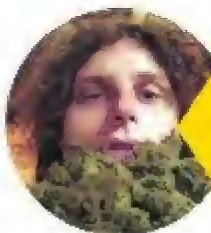
30-second song that follows it."

"And the second song will be a hidden bonus track on the CD only," says Coats. "And then our fans will be like, 'How could you put that on the CD—we had to buy it on vinyl! That's *bullshit!*'"

Coats's artistic contributions to the next album, he offers, are being assisted by the occasional three fresh vaporizer hits in a row.

"A lotta people say it messes with your memory, but if I'm playing something I really like, it doesn't matter how stoned I am—I could fall asleep on the couch with my guitar in my hands, and I'll wake up the next day and remember exactly where I was.

"I'm not taking anything, not even drinking," he adds. "But I separate weed from the rest. Pot is a creative tool—a third ear pops out when I'm playing guitar. It's like picking riffs off the tree." ✨



Dimitri Coats, On Weed, Off(!) Booze

"I separate weed from the rest—it's given me solace, and help in stepping away from things I don't want to be doing. If I start drinking, then I end up doing other things that I don't want to be doing. If I smoke pot, that's not gonna happen."

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Stoned Again

Half a century of Mick and Keef.

I guess any article about the Rolling Stones these days has to mention something about longevity, or about how the seventysomething Mick can still kick it like he's a teenager, but I don't really care about any of that. I'm glad they're not dead, but that's about as far as my interest in the 2013 Rolling Stones goes. For the first two-thirds of their 50 years as a working band, they were pretty much the greatest rock'n'roll band in the world, and this deluxe issue of *Charlie Is My Darling*, a documentary filmed on their Irish tour in 1965, delivers the vintage goods in spades. In fact, you even get a 10-inch vinyl and CD of a raw (as in "still bleeding") show from the same year that stands as the best live document of the Brian Jones era.

The movie, filmed by Peter Whitehead, is shot *cinéma vérité*-style. As the filmmakers interview manic kids waiting in line for the show (and catch the odd dirty look from passing adults), you feel like you're hanging 10 on the cultural wave that is about to crash and wash away the foundation of postwar English life. A few prescient interviews start the

film off. Brian Jones states that his future as a Rolling Stone is uncertain, that pop stardom doesn't satisfy him "artistically or personally." Four years later, he'd be found dead at the bottom of his swimming pool, having been kicked out of the band for being too stoned even for this group of hardcore drug enthusiasts.

I can't really recommend the 80-track deluxe compilation *Grrr*, because I don't believe *Voodoo Lounge* should be given the same number of tracks on any collection of Stones

songs as *Exile on Main Street*. There is so much missing—"Stray Cat Blues," "Monkey Man," "Sway," "Citadel," "Heaven"—that my suggestion to you, if you really want to own a comprehensive Stones digital catalog, is not to waste your money on this, but steal the original albums off the Internet instead. You won't be hurting anybody; the Stones are rich enough. *Chris Simunek*

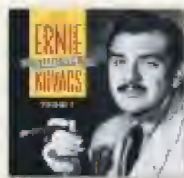


Charlie Is My Darling
(Deluxe CD/DVD/vinyl)
(ABKCO)



Grrr
(Universal)

DVD RECOMMENDATIONS

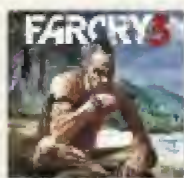


The Ernie Kovacs Collection, Volume 2
(Shout! Factory)

There were glimmers of weirdness back in the Eisenhower '50s, including the work of Ernie Kovacs, who operated on a whole other level. Decades before Letterman, Kovacs's TV shows were improvisational, absurdist, playful, full of sound effects and inspired non sequiturs.

This is the second DVD box set to unleash the American Duchamp on the twenty-worst century. Two discs contain Ernie's NBC morning show (what were those housewives thinking?), while another boasts an unaired pilot done with fellow surrealist Buster Keaton. *Michael Simmons*

GAME RECOMMENDATIONS



Far Cry 3
Xbox 360, PS3, PC
(Ubisoft Montreal)

My pick for 2012 Game of the Year, *Far Cry 3* is an achievement both in pushing the technical limitations of a sun-setting console generation (although this experience is recommended for PC play) and offering immersion on a scale matched only by the *Fallout* and *Half-Life*

series. Vivid jungle-scapes, hunting sequences and side quests help pad the initially promising but ultimately lackluster story, but several key moments in the narrative shine. Just try not to cry during the level where you have to wreak flamethrower havoc on a huge pot field.

Tyler Stewart



Hitman: Absolution
Xbox 360, PS3, PC
(IO Interactive)

The bald assassin returns for his fifth outing in an aging but beautiful franchise. Agent 47 has always been known for his all-business attitude, but *Absolution* dives deep into storytelling for the first time—and comes up short. Improved mechanics make stealth kills and shootouts

a tighter thrill, but new devices like an "instinct" meter and arbitrary checkpoints strip away key aspects that made the previous *Hitman* games so great. Still, *Absolution* shines more than 47's head at some moments, and stands as one of the strongest titles of the year. *Tyler Stewart*

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Boyd Rice/Non
Back to Mono
(Mute)

Musician/writer/provocateur Boyd Rice presents a most interesting proposition. Countless interviews, photo ops, books and performances have seen him getting chummy with a litany of society's most hated and feared phenomena: Nazism, Satanism, skinhead "culture." Rice would like to think of

himself as an artsy prankster, baiting liberal pinheads with their own banal fears and suppressed desires. But now consider the undeniable power of this music, whose dark, industrial-electronic ambience is simply state-of-the-art. It may even compel you to take a look at yourself in the mirror. *John Payne*



Anásazi
Attic Noise EP
(Toxic State Records)

A lotta ex-hardcore studs 'n' spikes wearers are trying to crawl onto the gothikk post-punk cart as it rattles to the gallows, and they should all get a boot in the face from these NYC gypsies. Combining the power and intensity of early '80s crust-punxx Amebix with the haunted,

reverb-heavy vocals of Death in June and the darkly melodic keyboard lines that characterize a lot of West Coast death rock of the same era, Anásazi here deliver three wrathful, howling cuts that crystallize the pain of modern shitty-city living. Get this for "Bone Collectors" alone. *Polly Watson*

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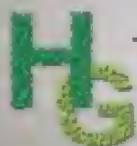
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MUNCHIES

Hemperor Stew

Brain food for hearty appetites.

Okay, so you're no fool if you're reading up on delicious, nutritious, pot-laced delights, but this Egyptian *fool* (or *ful*) is a fantastic stew, and this particular food column is

dedicated to the late, great Hemperor, Jack Herer (June 18, 1939–April 15, 2010).

Pot personalities around the world have compared Jack to the biblical Moses, who led his people out of slavery into the Promised Land but never was able to set foot in it himself. It's an apt comparison, since Jack—a former straight-edged Goldwater Republican—received his life's mission via his first sparked joint (his own “burning bush”) back in 1969. From then on, he never stopped trying to lead people to the truth about hemp and marijuana.

Jack liked a lot of flavor in his food, and I'm pretty sure this hearty stew would warm his belly nicely. We love you and miss you, Jack. Thanks for everything! And *High Times* readers should read (or re-read) Jack's font of wisdom, *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*—in which they'll learn, among other things, how hemp helped build up ancient Egypt. *Mary Ought Six*

HEMPEROR STEW

¼ cup plus 1 tbsp olive oil
5 grams cannabis, ground
2 cups dry fava beans
(broad or pink, 4 cups if canned)
½ cup split red lentils, washed,
rinsed and cleaned
1 ripe tomato, chopped
1 onion, chopped
4 cloves garlic, crushed
1 tsp ground coriander
1 tsp cumin
¼ cup lemon juice
1 handful fresh parsley, chopped
Salt/pepper, to taste
Cayenne pepper, to taste

Wash and rinse the fava beans, then cover with cold water and soak for 24 hours. Drain and rinse before cooking.

Warm the olive oil in a double boiler over low heat. Add the cannabis, stir until coated and then continue stirring occasionally for 40 minutes. (Remove if

you smell any marijuana toastiness at all.) Set aside.

In a large pot, bring seven cups of water to a boil. Add the beans and lentils. Boil for several minutes. Reduce heat, skim the foam from the top, then add the tomato and onion. Cover and simmer over very low heat for eight hours. After eight hours, if the beans seem dry, add a little boiling water as necessary. Simmer two to three more hours, until the beans are extremely tender.

Mash the beans using a potato masher or ricer. Stir in the garlic, coriander, cumin, lemon juice and cannabis olive oil. Add salt, pepper and cayenne to taste. Simmer and stir for just a few more minutes, then garnish with parsley and serve with warm pita bread. *Stones 8.*

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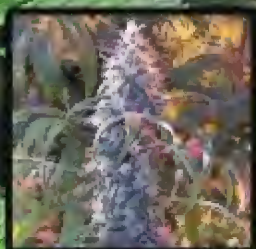
Blackberry



Gold



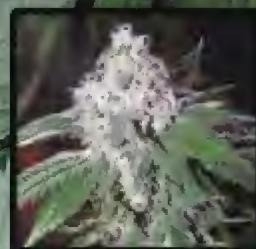
Fucking Incredible



Mother



British Columbian



Kat

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FUCKING INCREDIBLE! High Times Top 10 Strains 2008

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Eye	\$75
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The Legend of the BURMESE See High Times January 2009

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GSPOT High Times Top 10 Strains of 2009

Read about VISC's Induction into The Seed Bank HALL OF FAME in the August 2009 issue of High Times

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Medical Strain of the Month



Available by prescription only, Bedrocan (19% THC) brings potent relief to patients in the Netherlands.

Bedrocan

In the Netherlands, the government's Office of Medicinal Cannabis (OMC) operates a national program designed to provide approved citizens with top-quality cannabis grown to exacting pharmaceutical standards. As a result, Dutch doctors—unlike their counterparts in the United States—can prescribe (not just recommend) medical marijuana, including which specific strain patients should use, as well as instructions on how and when to partake. A local retail pharmacy then fills the prescription for up to a three-month supply.

At a fully legal cultivation facility in rural Veendam, about a two-hour drive from the center of Amsterdam, a private company called Bedrocan produces some 450 pounds of marijuana for the OMC annually—enough to serve as the sole provider for the nation's tightly regulated medical cannabis program. Since the herbal remedy has been restricted for medical use only as a “last resort,” the number of prescriptions written each year remains small. But those who do qualify gain access to a fully inspected, lab-tested, quality-controlled product at a price significantly lower than at the coffeeshops, whose offerings arrive with no

guarantee of purity or potency beyond the good word of the person behind the counter.

Bedrocan currently produces four distinct varieties of medical cannabis, all grown hydroponically indoors to a standard level of THC and CBD. The company's flagship strain, also called Bedrocan (19% THC, 0.8% CBD), is a cross of Northern Lights, Haze and Skunk that bears a striking resemblance to Jack Herer. They also produce Bedrobinol (12% THC, 0.2% CBD), a pure Haze crossed with Afghani; Bediol (6% THC, 7.5% CBD), which is bred from existing Bedrocan strains plus some *ruderalis*; and Bedica (14% THC, less than 1% CBD), an *indica* variety with a high concentration of the terpenoid myrcene, which is found in mangoes, lemongrass and hops, and is known to have a calming effect on patients.

By adjusting their carefully standardized cultivation techniques, Bedrocan's growers can even produce buds that test as high as 26% THC, though the program values a consistent product over achieving the highest level of potency possible. Still, that ceiling figure gives the rest of us a good idea of the strain's truly staggering potential. *David Bienenstock*

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(Sweet Tooth)
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Pike Creek, DE

TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
Alabama	Montgomery	Purple Kush	\$250
Arkansas	El Dorado	Headband	420
California	Fresno	Granddaddy Purps	230
		AK-48	170
		Tangerine Kush	230
	Los Angeles	Green Crack	200
		SFV OG Kush	350
Colorado	Boulder	Tahoe OG	280
	Denver	Golden Goat	300
		Kosher Kush	360
Florida	Orlando	Purps	400
		Blue Dream	450
Hawaii	Kauai	Master Kush	400
Indiana	Fort Wayne	Super Silver Haze	380
Kansas	Wichita	Sour Diesel	380
Maryland	Baltimore	Kush	420
Massachusetts	Boston	East Coast Sour Diesel	350
Michigan	Kalamazoo	Sweet Tooth	225
		Lansing	Jack Herer
Minnesota	Winona	Great White Shark	350
Missouri	St. Louis	Strawberry Cough	400
New Jersey	Jersey City	Ghost Train Haze	420
New York	Ithaca	Blue Dream	325
		Pineapple Express	340
		Trainwreck	300
	New York	Guava Chem	450
		Strawberry Cough	400
North Carolina	Asheville	Heavy Duty Fruity	450
		Purple Kush	400
		Trainwreck	325
	Hendersonville	Pineapple Kush	425
	Greenville	Lemon Skunk	400
		LA Confidential	425
Ohio	Cleveland	White Widow	400
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	Sour Diesel	480
Oregon	Gresham	Grape Ape	280
	Portland	Cheese	260
Rhode Island	Providence	Super Silver Diesel	350
		Grape Ape	350
		Chem Dog	350
Tennessee	Nashville	Raspberry Kush	345
		Vortex	500
Washington	Seattle	Super Lemon Haze	280
		Cheese	320
West Virginia	Huntington	Blue Dream	400
INTERNATIONAL			
Botswana	Gaborone	Blueberry Chronic	BWP 350
Canada	Peterborough	Pineapple Express	C\$180

MARKET ANALYSIS

Prices by the ounce

If this month's price index seems similar to last month's, that's because it is: All indices finished within \$3 of their previous month's average, and the US Price, Kind and Mids indices finished within \$1 of their March averages.

US Price Index
YTD Average: \$330



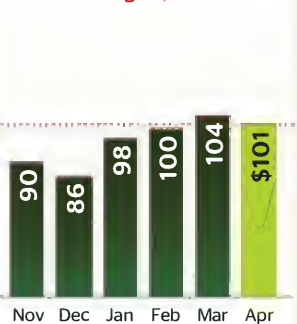
Kind Index
YTD Average: \$400



Mids Index
YTD Average: \$272



Schwag Index
YTD Average: \$101



(Blue Dream)
"People are starting to refer to Ithaca as 'Cali East.' The pot here is plentiful and locally grown."
Ithaca, NY

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(Tangerine Kush)
"The perfect bedtime medicine, covered in trichomes with a citrus taste. A knock-out strain."
Fresno, CA



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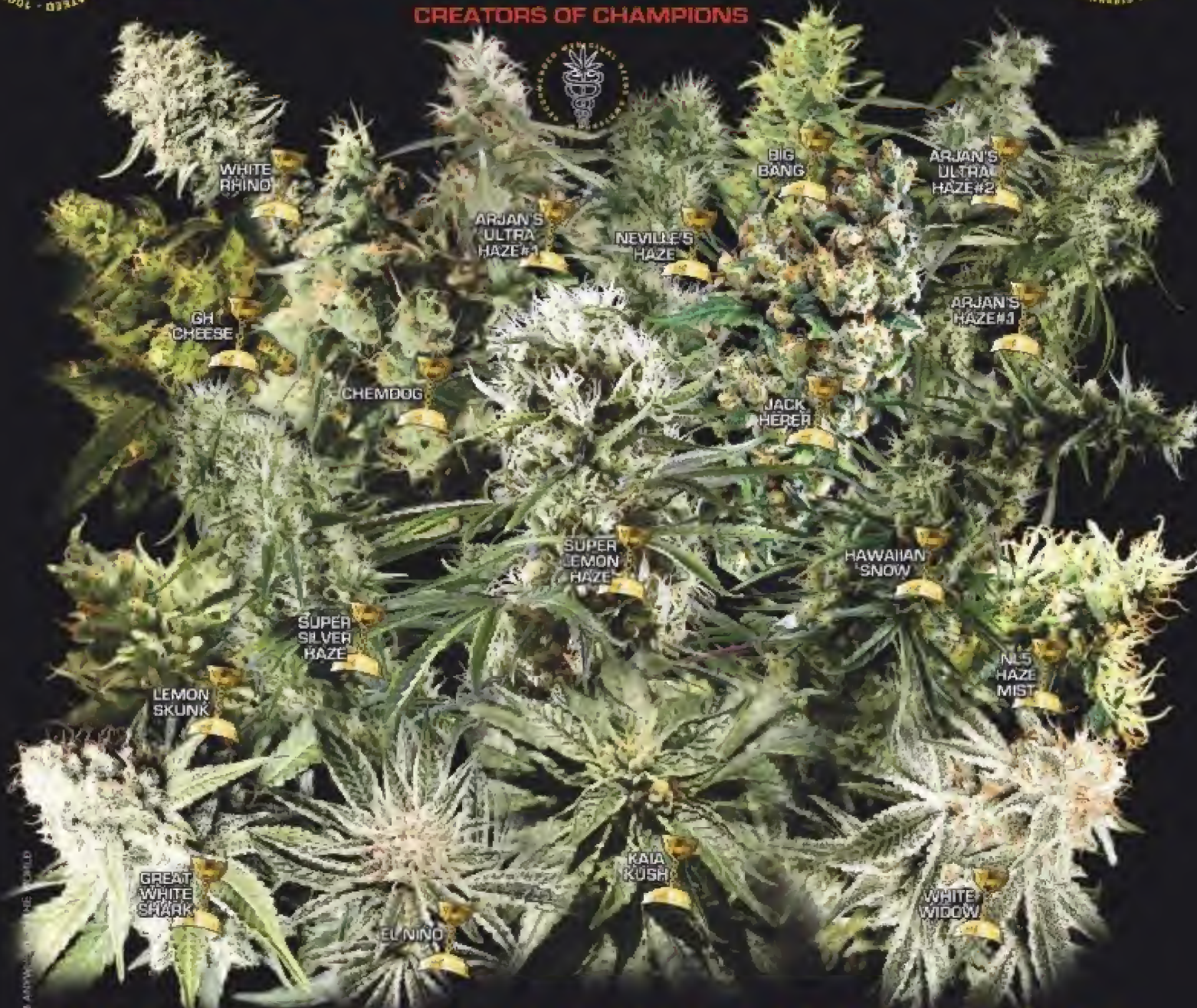
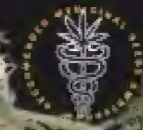


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SPECIAL 25TH CANNABIS CUP ISSUE

The Cup Rolls On

At the 25th Annual High Times Cannabis Cup, the global ganja movement came together in Amsterdam to savor the sweet smell of victory, smoke pot in peace, and celebrate the finest herb on Earth. *By David Bienenstock*



Cannabis Cup-goers gather at the Roost in Amsterdam for our 25th Annual extravaganja.

A Quarter-Century of Cups

It very well could have been the end of the Cannabis Cup.

Even as Colorado and Washington State voted to legalize pot for the first time this November, the fate of the Netherlands' decades-long experiment with marijuana tolerance remained in doubt. Already the dreaded "Weed Pass" had been implemented in Maastricht and other southern cities, effectively banning tourists from the coffeeshops. And if nothing changed, the same rules were set to take effect in Amsterdam when the clock struck midnight on New Year's Eve.

In the end, it took the (unrelated) collapse of the entire Dutch government, a coordinated political campaign by leaders of the coffeeshop industry, a public outcry from concerned citizens around the world, and timely leadership from the mayor of Amsterdam to stop the Weed Pass in its tracks—just in the nick of time.

"The 1.5 million tourists [who visit Amsterdam's coffeeshops] will not say, 'Then no more marijuana,'" Mayor Eberhard van der Laan quite sensibly told a local Dutch newspaper at the height of the conflict. "They will swarm all over the city looking for drugs, which would lead to more robberies, quarrels about fake drugs and no control of the quality of drugs on the market. Everything we have worked toward would be lost to misery."

At his Cannabis Cup seminar on the event's first day, Nol van Schaik, founder and owner of the Willie Wortel coffeeshop in Haarlem and co-recipient of this year's Dutch Masters Award for his years of dedicated marijuana activism in the Netherlands, described how his coffeeshop colleagues banded together to tour the country, run radio ads, file lawsuits and hold public rallies fighting against implementation of the Weed Pass, until at last the national government relented—at least in part.





Thanks to a coordinated campaign by local cannabis activists, Amsterdam's famous coffeshops will remain open to tourists indefinitely.

From now on, it will be up to the individual mayors to decide whether or not to ban tourists from their city's coffeeshops, and Amsterdam's mayor (among others) has already assured the world that all adults will remain welcome in his city's hundreds of locations. Which must come as a huge relief not just to the shops and their patrons, but to the city's hotels, museums, taxicab drivers and, most especially, whoever owns that Warme Waffles stand just outside the Melkweg.

"Next year we'll be back to celebrate the 26th Cannabis Cup, and hopefully the 50th," van Schaik declared at the conclusion of his prepared remarks. "Fuck the Weed Pass, and enjoy the rest of your time here."

Amsterdam's mayor has assured the world that all adults will remain welcome in his city's hundreds of coffeeshops.

I sat red-eyed and grinning in the audience, celebrating that sweet victory in the only appropriate manner possible alongside High Times' 2012 Freedom Fighter of the Year, Mason Tvert, who was fresh off his own successful campaign to pass a ballot initiative in Colorado legalizing up to an ounce of marijuana for personal use, plus regulated retail sales and cultivation. Ironically, it's a system that goes far beyond what's permissible in Amsterdam, where the coffeeshops remain "tolerated" rather than fully legal, and where no such protections exist for local growers.

One hundred hours (and about 200 joints) later, at the Cup's closing ceremony, I would stand beside Mason once again, watching as van Schaik and Wernard Bruining—who opened Mellow Yellow, the city's first coffeeshop, in 1973—stood before thousands of cheering Cannabis Cup judges to accept their Dutch Masters Awards.

"See there? That's two old-school legends," hip-hop MC Styles P informed his fellow musical performer, Ghostface Killah of the Wu Tang Clan, as we passed around some winning strains backstage. "And this here is a new-school legend that legalized Colorado."

And, by the end of the night, we'd be hearing from one more legend.



Big Buddha built the biggest sponsor booth in Cannabis Cup history.



Wernard Bruining and Nol van Schaik proudly accepting their “Dutch Masters” awards for decades of dedication to cannabis freedom in the Netherlands.



The Hall of Fame

Dubbed the Founders Cup, this year’s awards show culminated with the induction of Steve Hager into the Counter-culture Hall of Fame, taking his place alongside such luminaries as Bob Marley, Jack Kerouac, Bob Dylan and Jack Herer. Hager started the Cup in 1987 as a small, privately judged contest among Amsterdam’s top marijuana seed companies. Now a competition for the coffeeshops as well, the world’s premier celebration of all things cannabis has grown into a global event that brings thousands of pothead pilgrims to this marijuana mecca each November for a glimpse of the high life lived in freedom.

Hager sees the Cup as a series of spontaneous ceremonies meant to bind together the global ganja culture, in part by inviting everyone assembled to join in identifying the finest herb on Earth. Among my favorite Cup memories are the many rides I’ve caught on the Cannabis, a free shuttle that takes attendees from the center of town to the Cup’s massive expo, where all manner of pot-themed vendors and booths wait to greet them. As soon as the wheels on the bus start going round and round, everyone pulls out their stash to compare notes, with lifelong friendships forming seamlessly (seedlessly?) across cultural and even language barriers as the herbal

Cannabis Cup founder Steve Hager hosts a 420 ceremony.



“Marijuana should be legal because it’s part of my culture ... We’re good people, and we deserve a place of respect in society.”

sacrament brings us all together, in the one place where we can partake in peace.

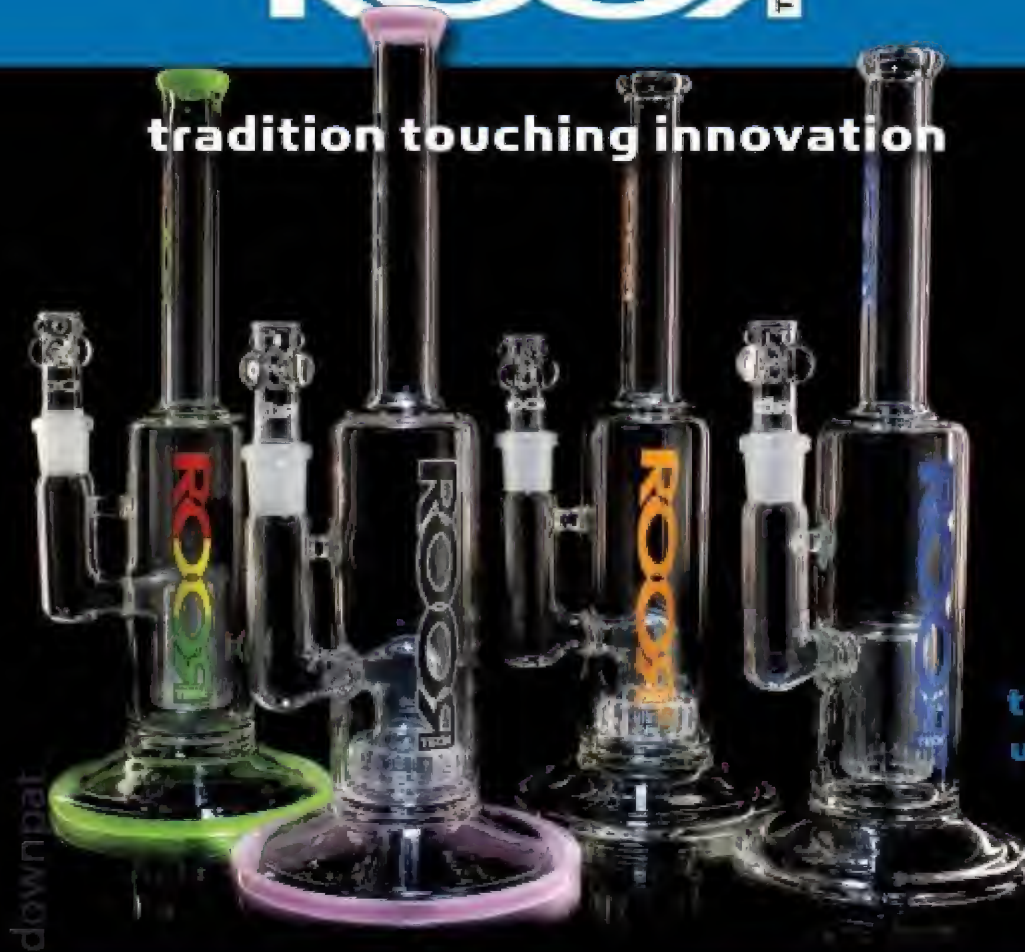
Joined by his Temple Dragon Crew, the Cup’s master of ceremonies Fantuzzi, two violinists, multiple drummers and dancers, and a green ganja fairy, Hager convened this year’s opening ceremony by bringing forth an altar of sacred candles and stones, top strains and the Cannabis Cups themselves, cast in bronze by hand each year to honor the winning entries in seven different categories (see page 62).

“I’m going to give you five reasons why marijuana should be legal everywhere in the world,” Hager declared. He proceeded to list the plant’s many medicinal benefits, the potential of hemp to heal the environment, the need to end America’s out-of-control prison system, and the way legalization would effectively push the drug cartels out of the marijuana business and eliminate corruption among cops and public officials prosecuting the War on Drugs.

“And, finally, the most important reason for me personally is the hardest one for me to talk about,” Hager concluded. “Marijuana should be legal because it’s part of my culture So if you get nothing else out of the Cannabis Cup, I hope you understand one thing: We’re good people, and we deserve a place of respect in society. So can we please get a little freedom?”

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Judges sample entries inside the Dolphins coffeshop.



Nothing beats ordering herb off a menu!

The Serious Business of Judging Herb

This year, 25 coffeshops entered the Cup, each hoping to take home the top prize in pot as judged by the thousands of everyday herbalists from around the world who signed up for a chance to take the “coffeeshop crawl,” try them all and then cast their votes at the expo. A separate contest, judged by an undisclosed panel appointed by *High Times*, honored the top seed companies for their finest *sativas*, *indicas*, hybrids and concentrates.



Roor took home Best Glass with their Drill Bill model.

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T.H. Seeds meant business with this year's entries, including a briefcase for the ages.

Nice work if you can get it.

I can't identify my fellow expert judges or even the category I tackled, but I can confirm that I did indeed take part in this most highly exalted process. Tasked with numerically rating upwards of 20 entries using five separate criteria—appearance, taste, aroma, flush/burnability and potency—I knew I'd need to develop a routine and stick with it to finish my judging duties on time.

To bone up (pun intended) on my

cannabis history and get in the proper judging frame of mind, I checked out international cannabis expert and author Robert Connell Clarke's seminar, in which he traced the 8,000-year migration of the plant from its likely origin in the Caucasus Mountains in Eurasia. Properly inspired, I decided to stick around at the expo and mingle a little, asking first-timers and hearty Cup veterans alike to share their personal methods for picking out their



International cannabis and hashish expert Robert Connell Clarke speaks at the Cup expo.

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Amsterdam has been famous for its flowers for centuries.

favorites from among so many amazing strains and mind-blowing concentrates.

“You must be scientific and systematic to get through them all and give each a fair chance, but you’ve also got to be prepared to go beyond that at a certain point,” a new friend from the UK advised. “Once you zero in on the top contenders, you’re going to go back, try them again, and find that one or two will just speak to you, mate, in a way that’s very real but hard to describe.”

Normally, I like to say that it’s a lot more fun to hang out with people judging a pot contest than to judge a pot contest yourself, but this year, fearing it would be the last Cannabis Cup, I knew I couldn’t say no.

The intensity with which I examined the many amazing entries in my category quickly brought me back to the days when marijuana first entered my life, recalling the endless fascination I had for anything related to the herb back then. For me and Mary Jane, it was truly love at first sight, and I wanted to know everything about her.



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BIG BUDDHA SEEDS



BIG BUDDHA CHEESE



Big Buddha CHEESE AUTOMATIC



Blue Cheese



Blue Cheese



CHIESEL AUTOMATIC



SITEL AUTOMATIC SATIVA



CRITICAL MASS AUTOMATIC



AUTOMATIC



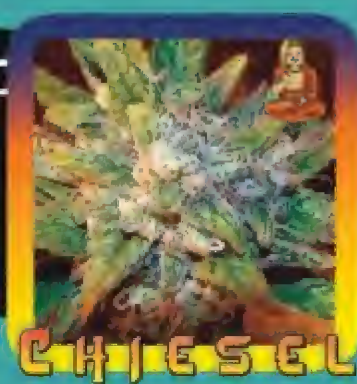
CRISPY THICK



cheese Dawg



BUBBLE CHEESE



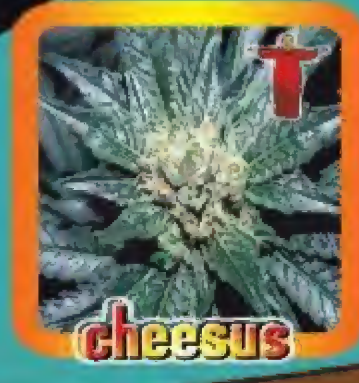
CHIESEL



LA CHEESE



FREEZE 89 CHEESE



cheesus



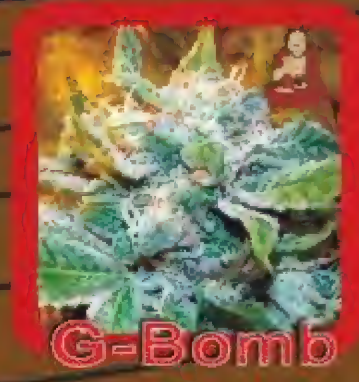
SILVER CHEESE



Buddha Tahoe



KALI KUSH



G-Bomb



Buddha Haze



T.H. Seeds/Hoodlamb explores high style with their annual hemp fashion show.

Into the Future ...

Working on the Cup over the last decade, I've cumulatively spent a few months in Amsterdam, once you add up the time we need to get ready for the event and the few days afterward that we allow ourselves to recover. Like everyone else at *High Times*, I've fallen in love with the city and its people. I would return again and again even if America had its own coffee shops on every corner. But when I introduced Mason Tvert as the 2012 Freedom Fighter at this year's closing ceremonies—to a thunderous chant of "*Legalized it!*"—I realized that my dream, shared by so many, is at last coming true.



Amsterdam sparkles at night along one of the city's famous canals.

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“I would return to Amsterdam again and again even if America had its own coffeeshops on every corner.”

Each year, in my brief time onstage, I've asked the audience to do two things: to give a big cheer of thanks to our Dutch hosts for having the tolerance, reason and common sense to treat pot smokers like responsible citizens, and then to take that feeling of freedom home with them—to plant it like a seed and help it flourish.

Over the past quarter of a century, the seed that Steve Hager planted by founding the Cannabis Cup has grown to become a global beacon of freedom for all those who still suffer intolerance, injustice and harsh punishments for loving a harmless green herb. And what's more counterculture than that? ✨

Mason Tvert

2012 Freedom Fighter Of The Year

Each year, *High Times* selects one outstanding activist in the global marijuana movement to honor as our Freedom Fighter of the Year—including a free trip to Amsterdam to accept the title at our Cannabis Cup awards show. As leader of the historic campaign that passed a marijuana-legalization ballot initiative in Colorado this November, Mason Tvert made for an easy (and popular) choice.

“This city has it right, and they've really kept the door open for more sensible marijuana policies for a long time,” Tvert said in praise of

Amsterdam during his acceptance speech. “I was here a few years ago and was incredibly inspired to be surrounded by so much tolerance

Mason Tvert accepts his 2012 Freedom Fighter of the Year award.



To watch Mason's Freedom Fighter speech in its entirety, visit hightimes.com/tvert.



and freedom. And now, in Colorado, we took that door that Amsterdam has held open so long, and we blew the motherfucker down!”

Thousands of pot pilgrims gather at the Cannabis Cup closing ceremonies, to learn this year's winning strains, concentrates and coffeeshops.





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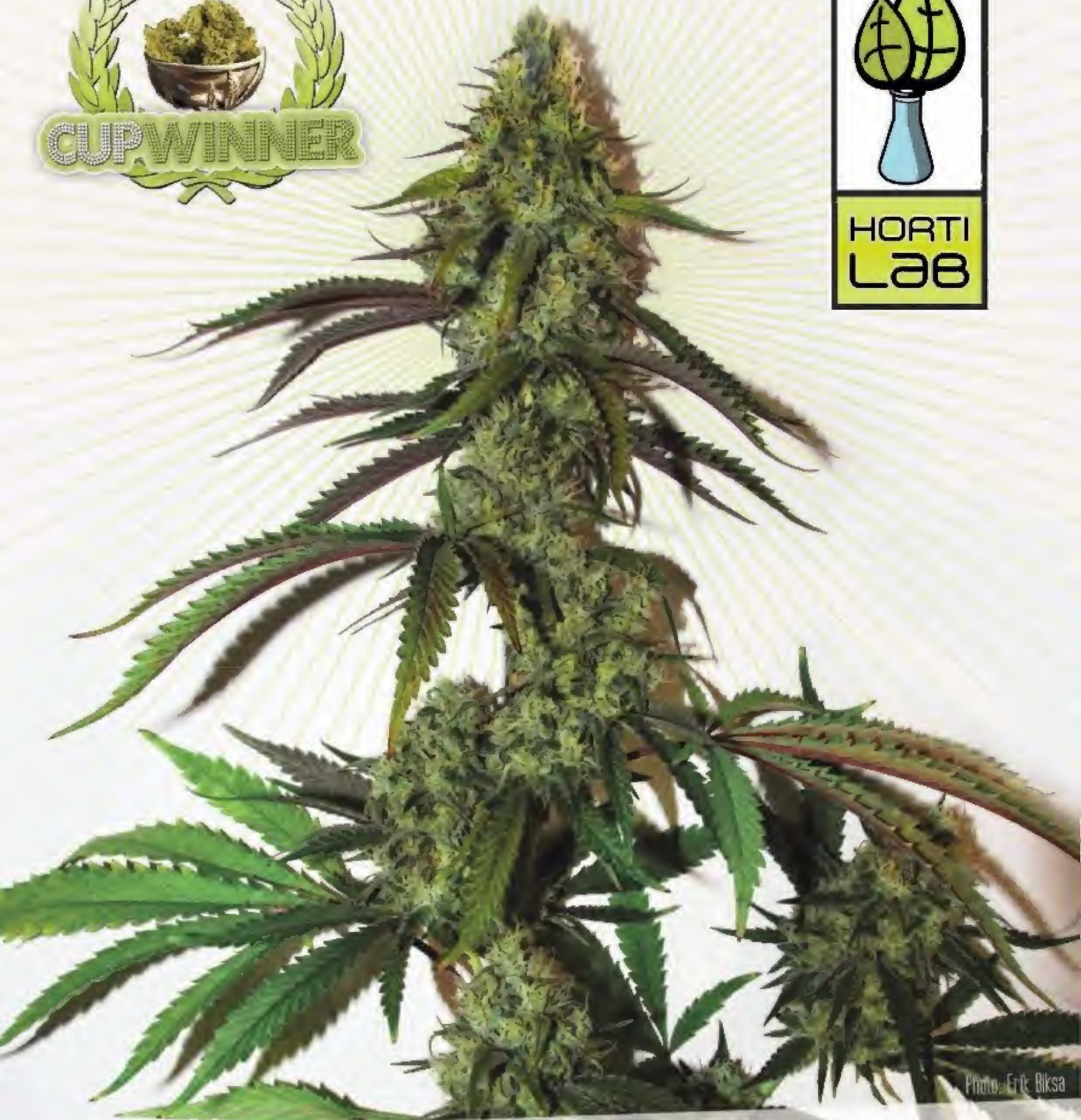


Photo: Erik Biksa

2ND PLACE - SATIVA 25TH HIGH TIMES
CANNABIS CUP - SOURAMNESIA

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Franco and Arjan from the Greenhouse, this year's big winners.



Cup winners Soma (Sativa) and Don from Reserva Privada (Indica)



Newcomers Loud Seeds with their Indica Cup.

And the Winner Is

Amsterdam's King of Cannabis will reign for another year, with Arjan Roskam's Green House coffeeshop sweeping the Cups for top Nederhash (Lemon Crystal), top Import Hash (Sharkberry Cream), and the overall Cannabis Cup with Flower Bomb Kush. By far the all-time leader in Cannabis Cup victories, the Green House won over the judges this year with an all-new strain that delivers on the Kush promise in its name with a

strong representation of that proud lineage.

Green Place coffeeshop also had a breakout year, collecting second place in the Cannabis Cup with its Shoreline strain entry, plus second in Import Hash (Twizler) and third in Nederhash (MOG), while the Grey Area coffeeshop took home third place in the Cannabis Cup with Evergrey and second in the Nederhash category with Grey Crystal.

Among the seed companies, the 25th Cup saw breeding legend Soma win with Amnesia Haze in the Sativa Cup, followed by Sour Amnesia from Hortilab and Green Shack from the Strain Hunters seed bank.

Reserva Privada earned the Indica Cup with their now-legendary Kosh Kush, as well as the Hash Cup with the Wheezy, named for its now-legendary creator. Newcomers Loud Seeds more than made a name for themselves with their Loud Scout strain, which won for top Hybrid;

Flashback to the Cup!
hightimes.com/25thCup



Cali Connection earned the High CBD Award for Lion's Tabernacle, as well as third place in the indica category for SFV OG Kush; and Big Buddha Seeds won Best Booth and Best Product at the expo.

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- #1 Harmony
- ♀ Pig OC
- ♀ Mad Kush
- ♀ Bubba Rock
- Jojo Kush
- ♀ Grand Daddy Purple
- Cherry Bomb x Skunk
- Reeferman Skunk
- Golden Temple Kush
- Mowie Gold x Skunk
- Thai x Skunk
- Tuna Kush
- ♀ Zen Hash Plant
- Afpac
- ♀ G13 Chem Dog

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Sour Diesel
Double Skunk x Skunk
Maple Kush
Pineapple
Island Sweet Skunk x Skunk
Northern Lights x Skunk

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Moosejaw x Skunk
Double Skunk Harmony x Skunk
Original Haze x Skunk

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#1 Black Willie

\$150

#1 Love Potion (Next Gen)
NH12 x Early MM
Harmony x Thai
Malawi Gols x Thai

#1 ♀ King

#1 ♀ Early Purple Kush

\$180 - NEVIL'S STRAINS

- ♀ Mullumbimby Madness x Nevil's Haze 2
- Nevil's Haze 21 x Oaxacan
- MM x Nevil's Haze 21
- Nevil's Haze 23 x SK MM
- Nevil's Haze x Early MM



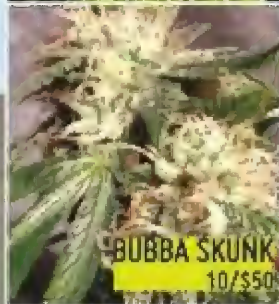
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10/\$50



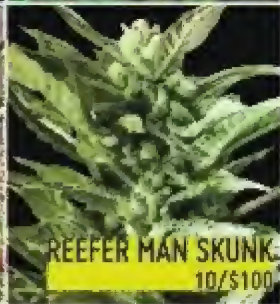
BLACK WILLIE
10/\$125



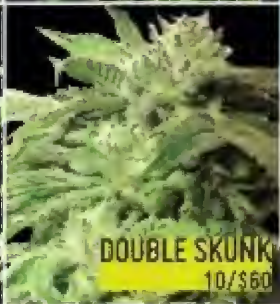
BUBBA ROCK
10/\$100



BUBBA SKUNK
10/\$50



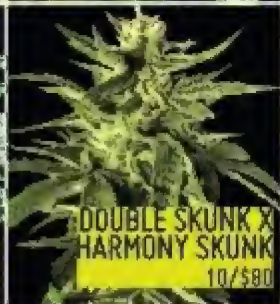
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G13 X SKUNK
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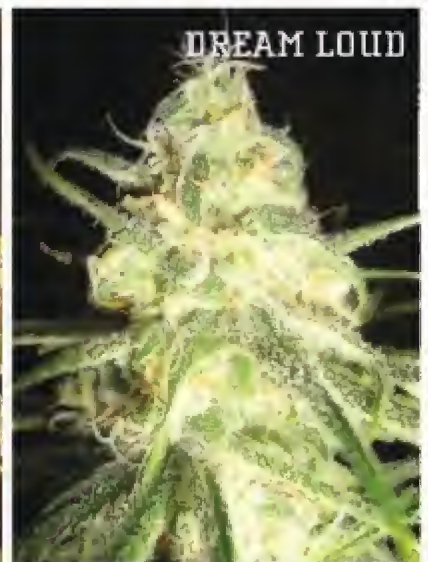
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25th Cannabis Cup Champion Strains

Senior cultivation editor and longtime Cup veteran Danny Danko reveals the real deal about the award-winning marijuana varieties chosen as the world's finest.



Danny gives the sacred Cup a kiss.

SEED COMPANY SATIVA

1st
Place
2013

Amnesia Haze

Soma's Sacred Seeds

Soma's done it again, this time with the appropriately named Amnesia Haze, a spicy mix of exotic strains that adds hints of pine and black pepper to its fruity bouquet. Truly a mind-bender with a wonderful flavor and aroma, Amnesia Haze reminds its creator of "the old Thai stick days."

When growing the Amnesia, go light on fertilizer: Hazes tend to respond poorly to overfeeding and overwatering, so it's always best to err on the side of caution. Also, be sure to give the roots room to spread out. After a slow maturation that can drive many growers crazy, you'll be rewarded with some of the most uplifting ganja on the planet and soon be soaring ever higher with hit after hit of the Amnesia Haze.

Lineage: Jamaican x Southeast Asian x Afghani x Hawaiian

Flowering time: 13 weeks

Contact: somaseeds.nl

THE CANNABIS CUP COFFEESHOP

1st
Place
2013

Flower Bomb Kush

Green House Coffeeshop

The ultimate prize for marijuana available for purchase at a coffeeshop went to the Green House juggernaut yet again in 2012. The company with the all-time highest number of Cannabis Cups added to their collection with this *indica*-dominant combination of Green Crack and OG Kush. For those who wonder where to find Kushy strains in Amsterdam, look no further than these shiny gems available at any of the three Green House locations.

Flavors and aromas of diesel fuel, licorice and citrus precede an undeniably potent high, and the strain is great paired with a Dutch coffee and some nice chocolate or pastry. Whether you consume the Flower Bomb Kush in a joint, bong or vaporizer, the stone lasts long and lingers.

Lineage: Green Crack x OG Kush

Flowering time: 8 weeks

Contact: greenhouse.tm

SEED COMPANY HYBRID

1st
Place
2013

Loud Scout

Loud Seeds

James from Loud Seeds has been making a big noise for years in the Bay Area and beyond with strains carefully bred for potency and flavor. For his Loud Scout, he crossed the popular Girl Scout Cookies with Platinum OG. He tells me, "When you open a bag, it smells reminiscent of tea, but when you squeeze the nuggets, you get cherry skunk notes along with an earthy Durban-type odor that carries through the creamy smoke when you fire it up."

Loud Scout is a moderate yielder that, when grown under ideal conditions, creates dense nuggets with an extremely high THC content. But keep in mind that she can be a finicky plant, liable to stretch and produce smaller buds with even the slightest of issues.

Lineage: Girl Scout Cookies x Platinum OG Kush

Flowering time: 10 weeks

Contact: loudseeds.com

SEED COMPANY INDICA

1st
Place
2013

Kosher Kush

Reserva Privada

A three-peat first-place winner and 2011 *High Times* Top 10 Strain of the Year, Kosher Kush has all the kerosene-fuel odor of the clone-only Kushes of SoCal while retaining their potency level and duration of high. Aaron and Don of DNA Genetics (who founded Reserva Privada as an offshoot for highlighting their friends' strains) say, "This is a special win for us! We're honored to be the only seed company that has won first place in a category three years in a row!"

Sealed bags or jars are a must for these nuggets, which will stink right through a plastic baggie. Growers (and trimmers) will love the impressive calyx-to-leaf ratio, but I should note that this plant is a heavy feeder and will stretch somewhat throughout growth.

Lineage: Kosher Kush x OG Kush

Flowering time: 9 to 10 weeks

Contact: dnagenetics.com

SEED COMPANY

INDICA

- 1st Place
Kosher Kush *Reserva Privada*
 2nd Place
True OG *Elemental Seeds*
 3rd Place
SFV OG Kush *Cali Connection*

SATIVA

- 1st Place
Amnesia Haze *Soma's Sacred Seeds*
 2nd Place
Sour Amnesia *Hortilab*
 3rd Place
Green Shack *Strain Hunters Seedbank*

HYBRID

- 1st Place
Loud Scout *Loud Seeds*
 2nd Place
Rock Star *Bonguru Seeds*
 3rd Place
Rug Burn OG *Rare Dankness Seeds*

HASH

- 1st Place
The Wheezy from *Reserva Privada*
 2nd Place
Tangerine Compound *Rare Dankness Seeds*
 3rd Place
The Tangle from *DNA Genetics*
CBD AWARD
Lion's Tabernacle *Cali Connection*

COFFEESHOPS

NEDERHASH

- 1st Place
Lemon Crystal *Green House Coffeeshop*
 2nd Place
Grey Crystal *Grey Area*
 3rd Place
M.O.G. *Green Place*

IMPORT HASH

- 1st Place
Sharkberry Cream *Green House Coffeeshop*
 2nd Place
Twizzler from *Green Place*
 3rd Place
Maroc Lemon Haze *The Bushdocter*

THE CANNABIS CUP

- 1st Place
Flower Bomb Kush *Green House Coffeeshop*
 2nd Place
Shoreline from *Green Place*
 3rd Place
Evergrey *Grey Area*

EXPO

BEST BOOTH

- 1st Place
Big Buddha Seeds
 2nd Place
Cali Connection
 3rd Place
Roor

BEST PRODUCT

- 1st Place
Big Buddha Seeds *Goodie Bag* *Big Buddha Seeds*
 2nd Place
PUFFIT Inhaler/Vaporizer *VapoShop and Discreet Vape*
 3rd Place
Tiny Sister *Roor*

BEST GLASS

- 1st Place
Drill Bill *Roor Glass*
 2nd Place
Puk Pipe *Puk Pipe*
 3rd Place
The MF Doom Borch *DNA Genetics and Hitman Glass*



Danny takes a giant spliff onstage at the Cup.

SEED COMPANY CONCENTRATES

1st Place
2013

The Wheezy

Reserva Privada

This is what every hash should be. A perfect combination of mind-shattering potency and pure, strong

Kush flavor, the Wheezy is a true one-and-done smoke. The only downside to this sample is that it's probably too strong for most consumers—even lifelong tokers might find themselves taking a knee after dabbing on this exceptional extract.

2nd Place
2013

Tangerine Compound

Rare Dankness Seeds

One of the finest examples of "shatter" ever entered in a Cannabis Cup. You can tell from the visual appearance of this sample that the hashmaker is a gifted artist: a pure, clear amber in color, delivered in a crystalline powder form with an unforgettable tangerine flavor. Smoking this one was almost like getting punched in the face by an orange.

3rd Place
2013

The Tangle

DNA Genetics

This was another stellar sample boasting all of the flavor and potency that any hash head could conceivably want (or handle). Not surprisingly, the immediate reaction of most people trying this amazing wax is: "Where can I get some of this?"

IMPORT HASH

1st Place
2013

Sharkberry Cream

Green House Coffeeshop

A beautiful, spicy aroma and delicious full-melt consistency made this sample a standout in its group.

2nd Place
2013

Twizzler

Green Place

3rd Place
2013

Maroc Lemon Haze

the Bushdocter

NEDERHASH

1st Place
2013

Lemon Crystal

Green House Coffeeshop

This sample was entered in both the coffeeshop and seed company categories, and with good reason: It's a clear, glass-like hash with excellent full-melt consistency and a true Hazy flavor.

2nd Place
2013

Grey Crystal

Grey Area

3rd Place
2013

M.O.G.

Green Place

Check out all the 25th Cannabis Cup strain entries at hightimes.com/25thCup.



THE WHEEZY
(Reserva Privada)



LEMON CRYSTAL
(Green House Coffeeshop)



SHARKBERRY CREAM
(Green House Coffeeshop)



TWIZZLER
(Green Place Coffeeshop)



GREY CRYSTAL
(Grey Area)



TANGERINE COMPOUND
(Rare Dankness Seeds)



THE TANGIE
(DNA Genetics)



MAROC LEMON HAZE
(The Bushdoctor)



M.O.G.
(Green Place)





FLOWER BOMB KUSH
(Green House Coffeeshop)

HIGH TIMES
CUP WINNERS



EVERGREY
(Grey Area Coffeeshop)



SHORELINE
(Green Place Coffeeshop)



KOSHER KUSH
(Reserva Privada)



TRUE OG
(Elemental Seeds)



SFV OG KUSH
(Cali Connection)

op)

AMNESIA HAZE
(Soma's Sacred Seeds)



SOUR AMNESIA
(Hortilab)



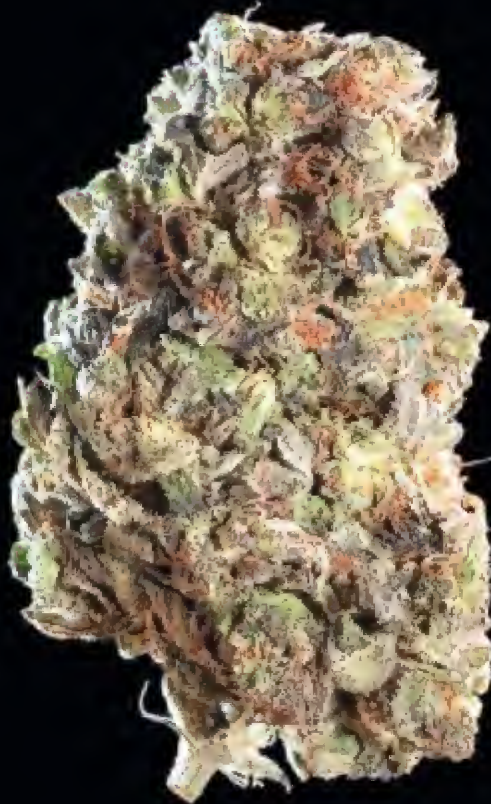
GREEN SHACK
(Strain Hunters Seedbank)



LOUD SCOUT
(Loud Seeds)



ROCK STAR
(Bonguru Seeds)



RUG BURN OG
(Rare Dankness Seeds)



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The Dawn of R

Back in 1930, Harry Anslinger became the first commissioner of the Treasury Department's newly formed Federal Bureau of Narcotics—from which he launched a successful crusade to outlaw marijuana. Many say it was at the behest of the DuPont chemical company, which viewed industrial hemp as a threat to its business interests in wood-pulp paper and synthetic fabrics. Anslinger's disinformation campaign has become legendary, but perhaps his most salacious lie concerned a man in Tampa, FL, who had murdered his entire family with an ax. Anslinger said the man was high on pot when he did it. He wasn't. Here's the true story.

By Paul Guzzo



Ax murderer Victor Licata (above) and Harry Anslinger (inset), the man who axed legal marijuana.

reefer Madness

E

very city has its share of skeletons lurking in the closet, and Tampa is no exception. Its timeline is dotted with appearances by infamous characters: Robert Anderson, who in 1912 became the nation's first African-American serial killer; Santos Trafficante Jr., the powerful Mafia don and possible JFK assassination conspirator; and Fidel Castro, the US government's longtime bête noire. But

among Tampa's more fascinating and little-known dirty secrets is the fact that one of its most appalling crimes was used as the foundation for a series of lies that led to the criminalization of marijuana. It's a tale that begins with the discovery of the grisly remains of the Licata family on October 17, 1933, in Tampa's Latino district of Ybor City.

The morning began much as any other, but neighbors began to worry as the day wore on and no one saw any sign of life in the Licatas' home. The family patriarch, Michael Licata, owned two successful barbershops downtown, but no one had seen him leave for work. The Licatas had two school-age children, yet neither of them had gone to school. And the family had a dog, but no one had taken it for its regular walk. If the Licatas had gone on vacation, they surely would have told someone. With none of the usual noises coming from the family's home, the neighbors decided to call the police.

The cops had to enter through a rear window; all of the doors to the house were locked. Once inside, the police found Michael Licata lying in the front bedroom in a pool of blood. In the adjoining bedroom, the family's 8-year-old son, Jose, and soon-to-be-married 22-year-old daughter, Providence, were found slaughtered, their remains barely recognizable as human. In the rear bedroom the cops found Michael's wife, 44-year-old Rosalie. On the bed beside her lay her 14-year-old son, Philip. He was still alive, but not for long, suffering from numerous horrific wounds.

The police then found the killer—21-year-old Victor Licata—cowering in the bathroom, dressed in a clean white shirt and well-pressed trousers. Underneath his clothes, however, Victor's skin was caked with blood. He had murdered his own parents and siblings in perhaps the most vicious manner possible, hacking them to death with an ax.

Victor Licata was a tiny man, just five-foot-eight and 127 pounds. He was soft-spoken and often described as possessing “queer manners” by family and friends. But on October 17, 1933, this small, quiet man was transformed into a savage killer. People naturally wondered how it happened and why.

In the weeks following the murders, the city of Tampa learned the answer. Four years later, the country was given a very different one as part of the newly declared war on pot.

In 1937, Harry Anslinger, the director of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics—a precursor to the modern-day DEA—appeared before Congress and testified that the Licata murders were directly linked to marijuana use. He stated that marijuana was the kind of drug that could turn a formerly rational, law-abiding citizen into a cold-blooded killer, and that its use should be completely criminalized. And he made those statements knowing full well that they were all lies.

However, the general public believed him. Anslinger had long been one of the most respected voices in law enforcement. He rose to prominence in his early 20s fighting international drug trafficking and later became an assistant commissioner in the Bureau of Prohibition, an agency notorious for its corruption and links to organized crime. However, Anslinger earned a reputation for being above such dishonesty—the proverbial man who could not be bought. So when the Federal Bureau of Narcotics was established in 1930, it was no surprise that Anslinger became its first director. And no one had any reason to think he was the type of man who would tell shameless lie after shameless lie in order to change federal drug policy. Anslinger's views on marijuana upon his appointment in 1930 were much different than they would be seven years later. In 1930, he stated that he would steer clear of the marijuana issue, arguing that it was impossible to control the cultivation of a plant that grew in the wild like dandelions. Hemp was a cash crop in those days, used for everything from paper to rope to clothing. In the mid-1930s, however, Anslinger announced



Marijuana had had nothing to do with Victor Licata killing his family.

that he had changed his views after learning about marijuana's horrifying effects on the human mind. That was the first of his hundreds of lies on the subject.

In the mid-1930s, Anslinger began writing articles that chronicled the crimes allegedly committed by those high on marijuana. He wrote about a lesbian who had murdered her lover while stoned, as well as two New Jersey girls who killed a bus driver because, while under the influence of pot, it seemed like the right thing to do. And he penned a piece about a slayer who'd burst into a hotel room and battered an old man to death, then later claimed he had no memory of it because he'd smoked two marijuana cigarettes.

In all, Anslinger collected and disseminated 200 such lurid tales that later became known as his “Gore File.” Of all the stories, however, none was more important to his anti-marijuana crusade than the Licata murders. Victor Licata's testimony provided Anslinger with his scariest example of the havoc that marijuana could allegedly wreak on a person's mind.

According to the police report, Victor said that sometime on the night of October 16, he was woken from his sleep when his father came charging into the room, pulled him from bed and pinned him against the wall. His mother entered wielding a kitchen knife, while his brothers and sisters joined in, pointing and jeering at him. He said his mother sawed off his arms and then jammed homemade wooden appendages with iron claws for hands into his stumps. Victor said that

when the attack was over and his family had left the room, he decided to seek revenge. He found an ax on the porch, but it wasn't a normal ax; Victor said it was a “funny ax,” rubbery, like something out of a slapstick cartoon. He said he took the funny ax and whacked his family members on the head with it, knocking them unconscious. But he never killed them, he said—though when he'd finished the attack, he found it odd that he was able to wring blood out of the ax, which “caused great pain” in his stomach.

What made his story even scarier was that, according to the police, he truly believed it. The investigators came to the conclusion that Victor had had a nightmare in which his family members attacked him as described; then he woke up and, in a hallucinatory state, murdered them with the ax, thus earning the nickname “The Dream Slayer.”

When Anslinger wrote about the murders, he insisted that Victor had confessed to smoking marijuana with friends prior to returning home on the night of October 16—and therefore the only rational explanation for the sadistic murders had to be the effects of the drug. And when the American public read Anslinger's tale of a small, quiet man who'd hacked his entire family to pieces after smoking pot, the result was mass hysteria.

With a groundswell of public support behind him, Anslinger convinced Congress to pass the first federal anti-pot legislation, the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937. This act levied a token tax of approximately \$1 on all buyers, sellers, importers, growers, physicians, veterinarians and any other person who dealt in marijuana commercially, prescribed it professionally or possessed it. The act had a larger impact than simply instituting a new tax, however. It set the precedent that marijuana was a danger to society, leading to future laws pushed by Anslinger and others that criminalized marijuana outright.

There was one big problem with all of this, however: Marijuana had had nothing to do with Victor Licata killing his family. According to a court-appointed commission's report, Victor suffered from a form of dementia—one that ran in his family. In fact, his brother Philip was pronounced mentally ill as well, and Victor had a granduncle who'd died in an asylum and two cousins who were likewise committed. Finally, the commission discovered that Victor's parents, Michael and Rosalie, were first cousins.

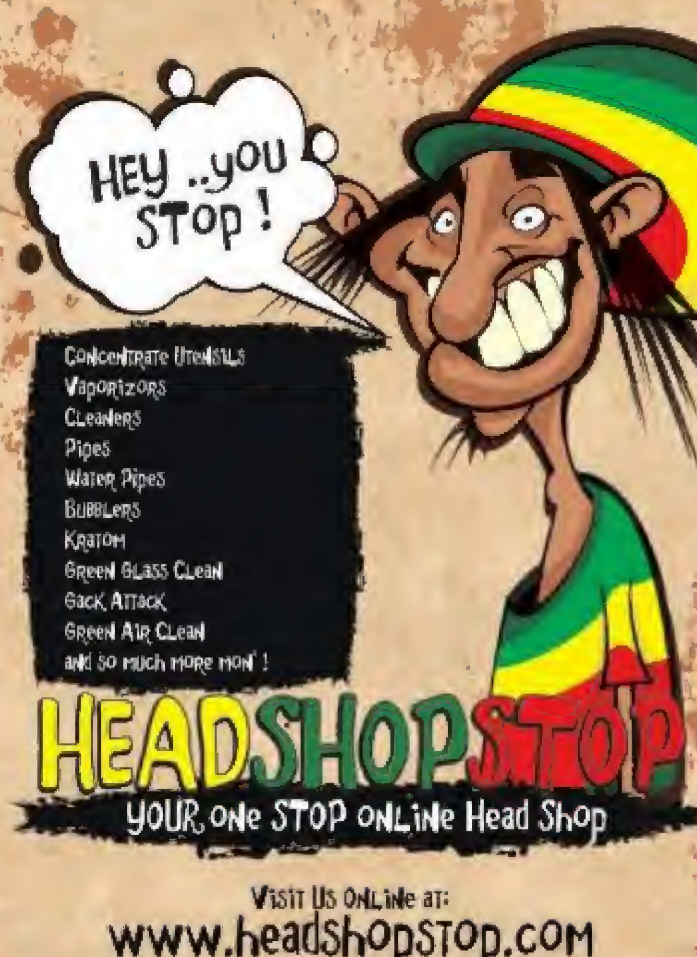
Following the release of the report, the state attorney announced that he wouldn't



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indict, saying it would be a waste of time and money prosecuting someone who had been “definitely established” as insane.

Anslinger decided to leave this important information out of his “Gore File” and subsequent congressional testimony on the murders, though he replaced it with a tidbit that was never actually mentioned in the court report: Victor’s supposed confession that he had smoked marijuana that night. Despite Anslinger’s claims, no one has ever been able to find any evidence that Victor admitted this to the police.

In fact, it has since been proven by researchers that 198 of the 200 violent crimes Anslinger blamed on marijuana actually had nothing to do with pot—and the only reason the remaining two have not been proven false is because no one can find any proof that the crimes ever occurred in the first place.

That proved to be standard operating procedure for Anslinger: He told the nation over and over that marijuana made its users crazy and violent, and then ascribed its use—without a shred of evidence whatsoever—to people who committed crazy and violent murders. In those days, Anslinger didn’t have to worry about fact checkers, the Internet or any other group with access to a major public

forum that could strike down the lies he told. The amount of information and communication that we take for granted today didn’t exist back then. A public official was taken at his word, and Anslinger exploited that public trust.

But why would he lie? One popular school of thought is that Anslinger was assisting his good friends in the DuPont

One popular school of thought is that Anslinger was assisting his good friends in the DuPont family.

family. At the time, the DuPont company had patented a new sulfuric acid for producing wood-pulp paper. Hemp, however, made wood-pulp paper economically unfeasible, since 10,000 acres of hemp could produce as much paper as 40,000 acres of forest. DuPont was also responsible for the development of nylon and rayon, two synthetic fibers that couldn’t compete with the durability of hemp fiber or the far more economical process of manufacturing it. Taxing hemp, as

Congress did at Anslinger’s instigation in 1937, took away some of hemp’s financial advantage.

Another theory is that Anslinger lied to save his job. With the Great Depression threatening the budgets of numerous government agencies, he needed to protect the FBN. If Anslinger could convince the American public that a dangerous drug was growing like dandelions in fields throughout the nation, and that he was their last line of defense against getting hacked to pieces in their sleep by their marijuana-crazed children, then the government couldn’t possibly do away with his funding.

It’s likely we’ll never know for certain why Anslinger lied, but there’s no denying the fact that he did. And 75 years later, the roots of marijuana prohibition can be found in a senseless, horrifying crime committed in Tampa that had nothing to do with pot—but that was soon pressed into service as part of Harry Anslinger’s unprincipled War on Drugs. ✱

The complete story of Victor Licata can be found in Paul Guzzo’s new book, The Dark Side of Sunshine. The book is a collection of stories documenting the most infamous people and events in the history of the city of Tampa.

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Ultimate Light

Proper lighting is essential for healthy plant growth, but which option should you choose: high-pressure sodium? Metal halide? LED? Why not mix and match until you've created the best possible system given the limits of your space? *Story & photos by Erik Biksa*



What's the best light source for an indoor medical cannabis garden?

Most experienced growers have likely drawn their own conclusions already. However, in doing so, they may have missed the forest for the trees. This is to say that perhaps a single light source or type of light isn't the best way to illuminate an indoor garden and get healthy growth and great yields of high-quality buds. Perhaps it's really all about combining two or more sources—different in wattage, spectrum and position.

Sure, this isn't a new idea; for example, closet and grow-chamber cultivators have been using

fluorescent light tubes to decrease shadows and increase bud production in the corners of their gardens for decades, while using smaller-wattage high-intensity discharge (HID) lights overhead. Luckily, today's indoor growers have a huge range of grow lights to choose from in order to dial in the perfect lighting system for their individual setup: magnetic or digital ballasts (HID lighting), plasma lamps (LEP), light-emitting diodes (LEDs), high-output (HO) fluorescent lights, and an ever-growing range of horticultural HID lamps available in various wattages and spectral ratings (i.e., the "color" of the light, which promotes different plant-growth responses).

Show Me, Don't Tell Me: A Working Model

Medical growers who work within strict plant-count limits typically try to maximize their yields and growth rates per plant by providing strong lighting—sometimes in excess of 1,000 watts of HID lighting per large mature specimen. However, the growers who reap the greatest rewards do so by combining light sources rather than just relying on a single type of light or lighting application.

In our working model, each large plant is finished in a 20-gallon pot, with one 1,000-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) bulb in a horizontal light reflector overhead and two 400-watt metal halide (MH) lights in the center, between the rows, equidistant from the plants and hung vertically as a bare bulb with no reflector. So, for six

ing

Vertically hanging lights supplement horizontal ones for maximum lumen output.



plants, we have six 1,000-watt HPS lamps and two 400-watt MH lamps. That's 6,000 watts over the tops and 800 watts on the sides of six plants!

As a result, the plants yield an ample quantity of bud per watt consumed and have amazing crop quality from top to bottom; as a bonus, they seem to finish the bud cycle almost a full week earlier than the same genetics grown using more conventional lighting methods. There are several elements contributing to the success rate in this model. Granted, you may require fewer lights and smaller plants (or perhaps more lights and larger plants), but let's identify and isolate the key factors.

First, we have a considerable amount

of light quantity here: over 65 watts of HID lighting per square foot of linear growing space. And very importantly, the heat generated by this much HID lighting in a confined space is well managed—there's no sense adding more light if you can't control the temperature. If the temps exceed 85°F in the grow area with the lights running, you may end up doing more harm than good and spend more money to do it, further compounding the loss.

Second, light is being delivered from more than one source and traveling in more than one direction. The plants are getting lots of intense lumens from above via the HPS light shining straight down into the plant canopy. While there

may be some reflection coming off the white walls, the sides of the plant go largely unlit by the HPS bulb. This type and placement of lighting concentrates most of the production in the tops only and causes the plants to stretch straight up into the light, making less use of the horizontal space available to increase yields and bud production.

However, the smaller 400-watt MH lamps suspended vertically broadside the lower parts of the plants with light. Because the wattage is less and the bare bulbs can be kept fairly cool, they can be maintained very close to the plants (within a few inches). The delivery of this intense light from the sides signals the plants to put effort into production from top to bottom rather than the tops only. That means bigger yields and more consistent quality from your harvests of medical buds.

Third—and also very important—the spectrum is blended for the growing phase (i.e., budding). This has been accomplished by using two different types of horticultural HID lamps: in this instance, a Red Diamond HPS, which is an engineered “red”-type lamp, and a PlantMax MH lamp, which is an “extreme blue”-type lamp rated at 7,200°K (Kelvin).

To understand the benefits here, you must first recognize the influence of the light spectrum on plant responses in the budding phase. The quick-and-dirty version is this: 1) Blue light tends to promote shorter, tighter, sturdier growth as well as better bud quality and more leaves. 2) Red light decreases maturation times and promotes floral/bud formation, resulting in bigger yields of buds in most cannabis strains versus those grown with blue light only.

The point here is that spectrum counts. You'll hear claims about “enhanced blue spectrum” in horticultural HPS lamps, and while it's true that there may be an increased percentage of blue light available from these lamps, the difference is small in comparison to using an independent secondary source of light that is blue-rich in spectrum, such as MH lighting. With the configuration described above, the intense blue light is being delivered where it will be most beneficial to yields and quality: the lower parts of the plant, which are typically “looser” and don't finish as nicely as the tops. The extra dose of blue light in the lower and side portions of the plant canopy can make a big difference here, getting more production from top to bottom throughout the entire garden.



Plants grown using ample lighting stay short and stout while filling out.

Putting It All to Work

So from this model for cultivating mid-sized but productive medical cannabis plants indoors, we can examine how the principles might factor into other styles and types of indoor gardens. Let's take a look at just a few of the possibilities:

Type I

Connoisseur Closet Cultivation

With closet cultivation, the desired finishing height is small to moderate (let's say 1 to 2 feet tall at maturity). A bushy growth pattern with plenty of chunky "satellite" buds is preferred for getting good yields without requiring lots of plants. Of course, yield matters, but there is also a strong emphasis on quality here.

High-output LED grow lights rich in reds and oranges (but with some blue diodes as well) are a good choice. Higher operating wattages, typically from 300 to 600 watts per panel, usually provide the best results. Not all LED grow lights are created equal,

so do your research beforehand and be prepared to spend some money if you want something that works well.

For the sides and in between individual plants, HO fluorescent lamps rated at 5,500°K or more may be suspended vertically. These 45-watt lamps are easy to find and can be purchased at a reasonable price. (Though make sure your garden's environment can handle the added heat, as the ballast system is built right into the lamps.) The warm-running HO fluorescents will be balanced by the cooler-running LED fixture overhead in a heat-unit-per-watts-of-lighting comparison—a critical consideration in tighter spaces.

In our Type I example, there may be 300 watts in one LED fixture hung above horizontally, and four 45-watt fluorescent lights—or 180 watts total—hung vertically in an area of about 1 square meter (3.3 feet by 3.3 feet). This setup borrows from the principles that make the larger medical garden discussed earlier work so well.

Type II

Grow Big or Go Home

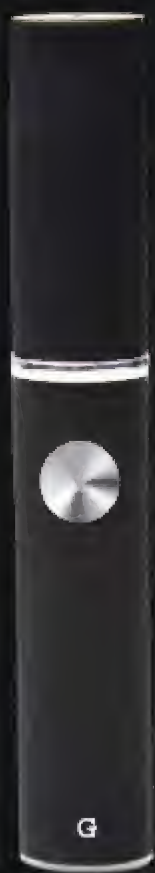
Here, maximum production from a given space is the goal, with initial startup costs being less relevant; it's more about sustaining big yields a long time after setting up. Quality matters here too, especially for the medical market. In this example, Sea of Green (SOG)-style high-density planting methods employ wider beds for the plants (for example, 5 feet wide—or, if the crop will be composed of larger specimens, a 5' by 5' area allotted to each plant, with plenty of space at the roots).

Overhead, we have one 1,000-watt HPS in an XXL horizontal reflector (preferably air-cooled or with an adjustable light spread) per plant or per 4' x 5' area in the growroom.

On the sides, we have a 600-watt HID lamp running on a digital ballast, one beside each large plant. The lamps are suspended vertically, about one-third of the way from the top of the plant canopy, in order to broadside the plants with lumens, achieving all of the benefits of side-lighting described earlier (although here we went with one side lamp in between every other plant).

With the SOG style of growing, the 600-watt HID lamps are suspended vertically in between the extra-wide beds, side-lighting the plants on the outer edges for better harvests. (Otherwise, these plants would be shaded out, producing lighter weight and lower-quality buds.) By using a digital ballast, the grower can switch from a 600-watt MH retro lamp (blue-enhanced, with a higher Kelvin rating) early in the flowering cycle to an HPS horticultural lamp (red-enhanced, with a lower Kelvin rating) in the latter stages—i.e., once the plants have stopped vertical growth and are approaching the peak bud phase—to achieve maximum production.

Plants given a balanced nutrient regimen, good air quality and lots of space for roots can get very big very quickly in this type of setup, so plant spacing and veg times should be adjusted accordingly (i.e., don't get caught off-guard by amped-up monster plants basking in all that light energy). Good temperature control is an absolute must with this type of wattage and investment. A high-temperature kill-switch is recommended as a backup precaution for cooling-system failures.



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Note: A pre-made, high-quality grow

tent (i.e., one with a nontoxic covering) is a great choice, especially if you don't want to renovate the room for spills, light leaks, reflectivity, etc. The fact that the plants are completely surrounded by highly reflective material helps to promote more efficient light use and provides a tight environment if you choose to use carbon-dioxide enrichment to further boost medical bud production (though keep in mind that good ventilation is crucial in tightly sealed tent grows).

On the sides and vertically suspended by chains between the plants, higher-wattage HO compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)—anywhere from 95 to 250 watts—help add more blue light, while distributing lumens from more angles throughout the lower portions of the garden. Though CFLs still operate hot, they're safer to use than bare HID lamps in prefab growing enclosures. You can also select and combine different wattages and Kelvin ratings for more “blue” or “red” light with CFLs, as there are plenty to choose from, allowing you to really tailor your light regimen for maximum production or quality.

The End: Always a New Beginning

The horticultural community is only beginning to scratch the surface of what we can achieve in our crops with advanced lighting techniques and technologies, but we're already leaps and bounds ahead of what was available to light up indoor medical cannabis crops only a decade or two ago. By combining and experimenting with different wattages, delivery angles and spectrums from a variety of lights, we can unlock a virtual treasure chest of tools that can further raise the bar in terms of medical cannabis quality and crop production. ✨

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High in the Low



Amsterdam's godfather of ganja Kees Hoekert circa 1975.



Garden on the gracht.

Amsterdam, 2008—Docked along the Wittenburgergracht Canal, just a short walk from the city's Centraal Station, floats a bizarre, rickety old houseboat known as *De Witte Raaf* (the White Raven). Hidden from the road by a dense thicket, there's only a small wooden sign to betray the entranceway: a narrow stair and gangplank leading down to its mooring. The sounds of creaking wood and cawing gulls accompany me as I descend into the boat's weathered hull. The interior cabin stinks of fish and mold, stacked sloppily with old books and papers. Seeing this rusty relic now, one could hardly guess its significance in cannabis history: In the late 1960s, before the Dutch *gedoogbeleid* (tolerance policy) for pot had even been conceived, the Raven was Amsterdam's cannabis center. Its decks were carpeted by thousands of plants, while down below thrived a bohemian teahouse of sorts that served as the inspiration for the hundreds of coffeeshops to come. This unique oasis of intoxication, leaking plumes of sweet smoke into the Netherlands night, was—and remains—the home of Kornelis “Kees” Hoekert, the unsung legend who first instigated the conversation about cannabis in Holland.

With his round, ruddy face, jolly demeanor and white beard, Hoekert resembles a stony Sinterklaas—a

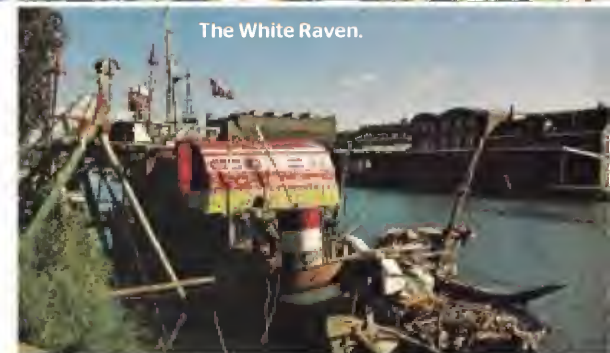
benevolently batty grandpa whose eccentric ramblings vacillate wildly between Dutch and badly broken English. Thankfully, I'm armed with a translator in the form of Jan, a longtime friend of his, who has arranged the rare honor of this visit. I sip from a cup of Kees's legendary “high tea” and listen as he excitedly expounds upon his life of infamy.

“Cannabis didn't exist at the time—it was all hashish,” Hoekert begins. “The hashish back then came from Morocco or Afghanistan. Marijuana was not brought into Holland because it was too bulky—difficult to smuggle. So the only thing you could get in those days was either hashish or what they called ‘lowland weed,’ which is no good to smoke.”

Hoekert didn't like smoking the imported black-market hash, because the quality was often poor or uncertain at best. He also eschewed his countrymen's custom of mixing cannabis with tobacco—a habit he knew to be harmful.

“What's tobacco?” he asks rhetorically. “Poison! I was a tobacco slave, but no more.”

This rejection of tobacco was actually the main impetus behind Provo, the Dutch counterculture movement that preceded the country's pro-pot movement. From the Dutch word *provoceren* (“to provoke”), Provo combined protests with absurd humor to goad the police into extreme reactions that would make



The White Raven.

them appear foolish to the public. The group was founded by Robert Jasper Grootveld (“Jasper” to his friends), an artist-activist who, like Hoekert, was a begrudged tobacco addict.

“One day, Jasper read in the local newspaper that the Turmac Tobacco Company had donated a statue of a little boy to the city of Amsterdam,” Hoekert recalls. “The statue was called *Het Lieverdje* [the Little Darling], which in Amsterdam slang really meant ‘little naughty boy.’ The journalist said something like, ‘We do not know what will become of this little boy ... we don't know the future.’ Jasper read that and thought, ‘I know what this little boy will become—he will become an addict to tobacco!’”

Grootveld began a personal war on the tobacco industry, painting the word “cancer” in black tar onto every cigarette billboard he could find and staging weekly anti-smoking protests around the statue.

lands

By Bobby Black

Pot pioneers: Hoekert and partner Jasper Grootveld.



Advertisement for Lowlands Weed Company.

seeds and posted myself at the end of the tunnel. The cars had to stop there for the traffic light, so when they stopped, I would say, ‘Welcome to Amsterdam! Here are some flowers!’ I did that for weeks. They were always curious: ‘What kind of seeds are these?’

‘Tulips!’ I would say.”

But in classic Provo style, the pair’s greatest publicity stunt would involve embarrassing the police, whose station was located directly across the street from the dock where the Raven was moored.

“I go to the police station and say, ‘I’m a plant lover—may I bring some presents for your garden?’ And they said, ‘Oh, lovely plant,’ and they planted it in front of the station. They didn’t even know if ‘marijuana’ meant a little town in Spain or a plant!” Hoekert laughs. “Then I go to the press and tell them I have a secret: At police headquarters, they are growing marijuana in flower pots!”

“There was a radio broadcast early Monday morning, and that’s the one Kees picked to announce his story,” Jan interjects.

“It was at 7 o’clock on a Monday morning, when everyone was still asleep,” Hoekert resumes. “I went there and did my story, then I went back and waited. Soon I got a call from a man who’d heard it on the radio. He said, ‘I’m from the television and want to come make a program about it.’”

“I saw that TV broadcast and the newspaper, and I remember the ‘Police’ sign with a big marijuana plant under it!” Jan says with a chuckle.

Hoekert and Grootveld hoped the police would come after them and create a scandal, but wisely, the cops didn’t take the bait. Legally, there wasn’t much they could do, since the Opium Law (Holland’s version of the Controlled Substances Act) forbade only the sale of dried cannabis leaves, not seeds or plants. The authorities undoubtedly realized that they would lose any prosecution against the Lowlands Weed Company and end up making fools of themselves in the process, since these were small plants with no THC that anybody could grow from pigeon food. Even so, Hoekert and Grootveld had reaped all the publicity they’d wanted. The local and foreign press, after seeing the state’s hands-off attitude toward these pot



Het Lieverdje.

“For months, every Saturday night at midnight, hundreds and sometimes thousands of people came and made fun, and the police bashed them up, smashed the whole thing down,” Jan informs me. But despite this initial success, within a couple of years Provo had run its course.

The group’s leaders officially disbanded it in May 1967, leaving Grootveld hungry for his next adventure in activism. With the hippies making headlines in the US, he shifted his attention toward marijuana—which, unlike tobacco, he loved to smoke. Then, one morning, he read a newspaper article about a man who was growing weed on his houseboat and decided to go meet him. Thus, a partnership—and a revolution—was born.

“It was me and Jasper—two men who understood each other,” Hoekert remembers fondly. “We had smoked marijuana long before the entrance of hashish. We thought, ‘Why smoke hashish when we can grow the best weed here in Amsterdam?’ We talked about it and said to ourselves, ‘We have to bring back cannabis and all the knowledge we have about it to Amsterdam and warn about hashish. How do we spread the word?’”

The pair decided to try growing their own pot. So in 1969, they bought a kilo of hemp seeds from a nearby pet store (where it was sold as pigeon feed) and transformed the Raven into Amsterdam’s first floating ganja garden. From stem to stern, its decks overflowed with thousands of little plants sprouting from peat-moss pots, trays, even coffee cans and old shoes. They began selling seed packets and plants for just one guilder (40 cents) each. Of course, the plants had no THC and weren’t suitable for smoking; the whole thing was meant purely as a symbolic political act. The pair christened their new venture the Lowlands Weed Company. Ever the provocateurs, Hoekert and Grootveld couldn’t wait to announce it to the world.

“I thought, ‘I have discovered something remarkable—I realized that you can grow marijuana *everywhere*,’” Hoekert says. “I wanted to publicize this so that everybody knows it. So what do I do?”

What he did was become the Johnny Appleseed of weed. Hoekert began planting seeds in all sorts of random places—such as Amsterdam Forest, an artificial wood near Schipol Airport—and handing them out to random passersby and motorists.

“There’s a big tunnel where people come to Amsterdam from Germany,” Hoekert recalls. “I put my pockets full of

provocateurs, concluded that weed was now legal to grow in the Netherlands. The Lowlands Weed Company had effectively become the country's first legal cannabis merchants.

Granted, this wasn't the kind of skunky sinsemilla we're used to seeing these days—it was likely just a step or two above industrial hemp. But that didn't seem to matter: People from all over the world came to The White Raven to buy plants and seeds, and to get high below its decks with its now-infamous proprietors.

"During the summer, there was a tourist bus called the Magic Bus that drove daily through Amsterdam visiting all the important hippie addresses," recalls Wernard Bruining, a close friend of Hoekert's and the founder of Amsterdam's first coffeeshop, Mellow Yellow. "The highlight of the tour was a visit to *De Witte Raaf*, where the tourists got a cup of marijuana tea and a speech by Kees or Robert Jasper. It stopped there twice a day."

Of course, Lowlands was more about principle than profits—the garden was a symbolic statement, not a capitalist enterprise. But it wasn't long before other people would take advantage of Amsterdam's newly established laissez-faire attitude toward cannabis.



People from all over the world came to The White Raven to buy plants and seeds, and to get high below its decks with its infamous proprietors.

"In the old days [1970], we were selling hash to friends from our small apartment in order to have a free smoke ourselves," Bruining says. "We had so many visitors, whom we always gave a cup of tea to drink, that the joke was that we should open up a teahouse and at least make some money. So, in 1973, we did."

However, his original intention wasn't to open the place up to the general public, but to keep it a private smoke-easy.

"We deliberately kept a low profile—just for hippies," Bruining explains. "That's why we called our shop Teahouse Mellow Yellow ... a sort of code name. Only smokers would understand that the Donovan song was about smoking baked banana peels when you were out of hash or grass!"

That changed pretty quickly, however, and within a couple of years, two other coffeeshops (Rusland and Bulldog) had opened their doors and started selling pot to the public. Ironically, though his actions were pivotal in creating the tolerant atmosphere toward cannabis that paved the way for the coffeeshops, Grootveld strongly disapproved of them.

"I commercialized weed with the coffeeshop system, and later by selling seeds," Bruining explains. "Robert did not like me because of that; he was old-school and had



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the idea that people should grow it and just give it away. It was difficult for me to make clear to him that this was a romantic idea, but not very practical when a lot of consumers entered the market.”

Hoekert, however, was another matter. When he learned of Mellow Yellow, he approached Bruining about supplying his boat with smokable weed from Indonesia, which he could resell.

“Kees had more of an open mind for my ideas—that’s why we got along so well. This made Robert J. very jealous,” Bruining says. But despite this friction with Grootveld, his dealings with Hoekert soon blossomed into a warm, lifelong friendship.

“I regularly came to see Kees and have a chat. In 1981, I went to him and told him that I’d learned to grow seedless marijuana [sinsemilla]. This was a completely new technique I had learned from my Oregon ganja teacher, Old Ed. By that time, the Lowlands Weed Company was legendary, and I felt that Dutch smokers did not pay enough homage to Kees. So I asked him to become the symbolic chairman of a new company: the Lowlands Seed Company. It was the first true Dutch seed company.”

Hoekert readily acknowledges his role in laying the foundation for Holland’s



coffeeshops and seed companies, but he still finds the government’s policy of marijuana “tolerance” ridiculous.

“How can you be ‘tolerant’ of a plant?” he asks. “It’s just there—it has nothing to do with tolerance! How can you outlaw something that grows everywhere?”

Epilogue: In the years to come, Bruining would leave Mellow Yellow and absorb the Lowlands Seed Company into his new grow shop, Positronics—the first of its kind in Europe. As for Hoekert ... like his beaten barge, he slowly and sadly degraded before fading into obscurity—so much so that when Jan approached me about interviewing him, I’m embarrassed to admit that I’d never heard of him.

My visit with Kees was nearly five years ago now. Since that time, Grootveld passed away (just a year later, in 2009),

and Hoekert has been institutionalized as a result of the decades of alcohol abuse that ruined his physical and mental health.

“I sometimes visit Kees, but communication is difficult ... he is kept under heavy medication and is constantly numb,” Bruining laments. “It is difficult for me to see him like that. But we have a special relationship that will last forever.”

At our Founders Cup this November, *High Times* presented Bruining (as well as Haarlem’s pot pioneer, Nol van Schaik) with the Dutch Masters Award in recognition of his contributions to Amsterdam’s cannabis scene—an honor that he’d like to see bestowed upon Hoekert.

“I do not think he would be able to come accept it, but I think Kees certainly deserves a Masters Award!” Bruining says. “I always tried to emphasize to the Dutch how grateful they should be towards Kees and Jasper, since they founded the liberal, pro-cannabis climate in Holland. But as you know, a prophet is never honored in his own country by his own people.”

I, for one, second that nomination. After all, without Kees Hoekert and Robert Jasper Grootveld—and their Lowlands Weed Company—there probably wouldn’t be any coffeeshops in Amsterdam ... let alone a Cannabis Cup. ✨

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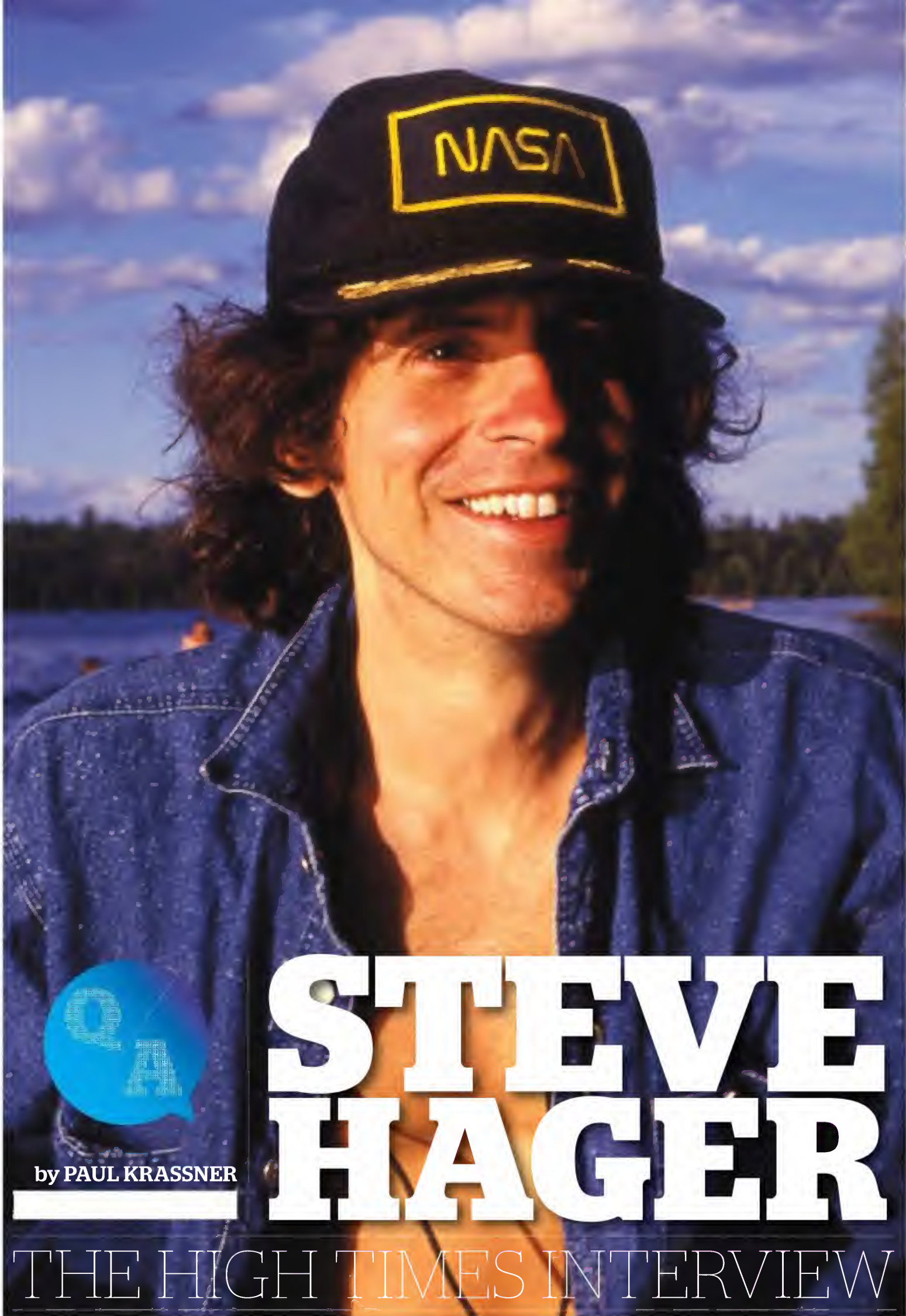
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STEVE HAGER

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

STEVE HAGER'S CAREER AS A COUNTERCULTURE JOURNALIST BEGAN IN 1967 WHEN, WHILE STILL A TEENAGER, HE LAUNCHED THE LARGEST UNDERGROUND PAPER IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS AND AS A RESULT WAS TARGETED BY A STATE TASK FORCE AND BUSTED FOR WITNESSING THE SALE OF ONE TAB OF LSD. IN 1980 IN THE SOUTH BRONX, HAGER BECAME THE FIRST REPORTER TO RESEARCH AND WRITE ABOUT HIP-HOP. IN 1986 HE CAME TO *HIGH TIMES*, CREATED THE HEMP MOVEMENT WITH JACK HERER, AND TOOK THIS MAGAZINE TO ITS HIGHEST CIRCULATION IN YEARS.

DURING THE YEARS THAT HAGER SERVED AS *HT*'S EDITOR, HE PUBLISHED STORIES RANGING FROM AN ARTICLE ON THE MARIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO CREATED THE TERM "420" AS THE DESIGNATED TIME TO LIGHT UP A JOINT—WHICH THEY DID AFTER CLASS EVERY AFTERNOON AT 4:20 P.M.—TO DEEP CONSPIRACY RESEARCH ON ISSUES LIKE THE JFK ASSASSINATION AND THE DRUG WAR, TAKING THE RISK THAT SOME SKEPTICAL READERS WOULD LIKEN HIM TO THE ANCIENT MARINER WAVING HIS FILTHY ALBATROSS IN THEIR FACE.

IN VIEW OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN CONSPIRACY RESEARCH AND HIS BELIEF IN THE TRUTH OF WHAT HE WRITES, I ONCE ASKED STEVE HOW HE MANAGES TO STAY OPTIMISTIC. "MY RULE IS, FORGET ABOUT TEARING DOWN THE ESTABLISHMENT," HE REPLIED. "IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN—THE OCTOPUS IS TOO POWERFUL. INSTEAD, CONCENTRATE ON BUILDING AN ALTERNATIVE CULTURE AND PASSING IT DOWN TO ANYONE WHO CARES. REAL CEREMONIES CREATE POSITIVE ENERGY. BUT IF YOU FOCUS SOLELY ON EXPOSING NAZIS, YOU ARE LIVING IN THEIR TWISTED WORLD."

WHEN IT COMES TO BUILDING AN ALTERNATIVE CULTURE, HAGER HAS PLAYED HIS PART WITH CREATIVITY AND DISCIPLINE, NOT ONLY IN PRINT AND VIDEO, BUT ALSO AS THE FOUNDER OF THE HIGH TIMES CANNABIS CUP IN AMSTERDAM AND THE WORLD HEMP EXPO & EXTRAVAGANZA (WHEE) IN OREGON, WASHINGTON, OHIO, MICHIGAN AND CALIFORNIA. SO IT'S BEYOND APPROPRIATE THAT, AT THE 25TH ANNUAL CUP IN 2012, STEVE HAGER WAS INDUCTED INTO THE COUNTERCULTURE HALL OF FAME.

How has the Cannabis Cup evolved over the decades?

It started as a low-budget operation on a need-to-know basis. At the 3rd Cup, the Freedom Fighter of the Year—elected at a council in Ann Arbor—became a central feature. The public was invited to the 6th Cup, and around 50 people showed up. The 7th Cup was the first 420 council,

but nobody knew what 420 was back then or cared, so that first 420 ceremony never really got a focused energy field going until the following year, when some Rainbows [i.e., Rainbow Family members] showed up—though it actually took off mostly through the efforts of Eagle Bill and me.

By the 10th Cup, the Counterculture Hall of Fame was

established, and that really helped focus the vibe. It's an improvisational event, but some rituals and ceremonies keep coming back with minor tweaks. Is there any other event in the world that celebrates the convergence of cannabis and spirituality?

How do you feel about those growers and dealers who are actually against legalization?

Some probably think the current model is the most profitable, since it keeps the price high. It's all about the money.

Is the choice of prison or rehab really a scam that makes defendants lie about being addicted, which results in the statistics necessary for funding?

Several revenue streams were engineered around drug prohibition: the drug-testing industry, the forced-treatment industry. Most cannabis users can quit on their own. Forcing them into treatment by offering jail as the only alternative feeds a huge and growing industry of leeches sucking your money. The stats are a bonus that helps sustain the program's illusion of necessity, but the money is first and foremost, I'm sure.

In the '60s, pot possession was used as an excuse to bust political activists. Do you think that practice continues today?

Every venue I tried to use for the WHEE Festival was swiftly attacked, shut down and, in most cases, confiscated through forfeiture. They don't go after individuals so much as festival sites. See, in order to have a culture, you have to congregate and hold ceremonies. But if you can't congregate, you can't really build a culture. It's not something you can do watching TV.

What got you started in conspiracy research, and how has

that developed since then?

I've written about the '60s a lot on my blog, and someday I hope to do a documentary about growing up in Champaign-Urbana, IL, between 1966 and 1969 (the year I graduated high school). In 1965, the SDS held a national convention in our town, and the following year, John Cage became a visiting artist on a fellowship for two years. Cage held his most elaborate happenings in 1968 in our humble town in Central Illinois.

The first staging of the counterculture masterpiece *MacBird* was also held there and featured two of my closest friends—both recent dropouts from Urbana High, one of whom founded the greatest garage band in the state, the Finchley Boys. And I had an epiphany watching *MacBird*. Before then, my mind had been closed; I'd heard the stories about the JFK assassination, but I thought, "No way is America so corrupt that the CIA killed the president!" But after watching *MacBird*, I became painfully aware the stories were probably true.

It wasn't until the 25th anniversary of the assassination that I got serious about researching the story, though. That was the year Oliver Stone's movie *JFK* came out. When Judge Jim Garrison said on his deathbed that my article in *High Times* was "the best article written on the subject," I knew I could compete in the field—mostly because there's not much real competition, as most conspiracy material seems generated by some CIA disinfo mill. I don't subscribe to chemtrails, "We didn't land on the moon," "Elvis is alive," "The aliens have landed" or the current most popular, "The Illuminati worship Aleister Crowley" ... or any of the other rabbit holes designed to lead researchers astray.

And yet you accept the theory that 9/11 was an inside job, while other researchers consider that theory to be a “rabbit hole.” Do you believe they’ve been duped, or do you think they lack integrity?

I don’t know anyone who has seriously investigated 9/11 who thinks the government’s account is credible; you must’ve been reading *Popular Mechanics* to get that impression. [In 2005, *Popular Mechanics* ran a special issue disparaging the 9/11 Truth Movement.] In fact, if we did a survey right now of the major intelligence agencies around the world, you’d probably get a consensus that the CIA, MI6 [British intelligence], Saudi Arabia, the Mossad and Pakistan’s ISI were working together on the operation.

Unfortunately, 9/11 is heavily obscured with mud and disinfo, but I can briefly go through a couple of major points. There were very precise warnings, contrary to what Condoleezza Rice says—which is why the mayor of San Francisco was told not to board a plane that week. *The War on Truth* by Nafeez Ahmed documents many incidents that are on record regarding forewarnings that were received and ignored.

Also, several of the 9/11 Commission members later admitted that the Pentagon lied consistently during the investigation (or at least frequently changed its story), and also that the evidence involving Saudi Arabia and Pakistan was never followed up. Juval Aviv, a former Mossad agent and founder of one of the largest private intelligence agencies in the world [Interfor, Inc.], told me the CIA was warned very early on about 9/11 by the Mossad. He doesn’t know why this information wasn’t acted on, but he’s certain the warnings were delivered.

For me, 9/11 was a retread of the JFK assassination, and



Steve Hager
meeting counter-
culture legend
Ken Babbs.

“For me, 9/11 was a retread of the JFK assassination, and the operation followed much the same formula—including the instant designation of a patsy.”

the operation followed much the same formula—including the instant designation of a patsy. The so-called “mastermind” has been held in prison and tortured for years. The only evidence against him is another prisoner who was also tortured for years, and who is testifying now in order to save himself. Meanwhile, Osama bin Laden (or someone impersonating him) was needlessly murdered in cold blood rather than being brought back for interrogation. What happened to “innocent until proven guilty”? Why aren’t any of Osama’s many wives—one of whom has a PhD—being asked to testify at this trial? I’m sure they must hold some useful information.

There’s nothing about 9/11 that indicates the Pentagon told the truth about *anything*, and the only entity that really benefited from the incident was our military-industrial complex, which scooped up billions in profits over the course of the two wars that soon followed. Finally, the plane that hit the Pentagon could have easily made a direct hit on the offices

of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, but instead went through a crazy corkscrew turn that would have challenged the most well-trained pilot in the world, in order to crash into an accounting office near the ground floor on the backside of the building that held records concerning the \$2.3 trillion that was announced to be “missing” by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on September 10—one day before 9/11—thus letting the criminals who stole that money off the hook. Really? How credible is this story?

What’s your reaction to Ishmael Reed’s statement, “The history of civilization is the history of warfare between secret societies”?

After I wrote my story on JFK, I published an article on Skull and Bones by Kris Millegan, who introduced me to the work of Antony Sutton. At that point, my research shifted from the political stage to secret societies. As JFK so astutely pointed out, in politics, “things do not happen. They are *made* to happen.” There’s a network of corruption running

throughout the world, and its dealings are handled out of sight, mostly through these secret societies, which are everywhere. The Mafia is just one piece of the puzzle.

Skull and Bones is a brotherhood of death, just like that Sicilian “men of honor” society, which means they recognize murder as a legitimate tool and ritualize its use. I write about both societies a lot. Someday Skull and Bones will get the full attention they deserve. Yes, I believe the rich and powerful orchestrate their agenda through their many private social clubs and societies, most of which are completely hidden from public view, like Skull and Bones.

Where can folks read your blogs?

You can Google “stevenhager420” and find me on WordPress, Twitter, YouTube and Facebook pretty fast. And if you’re on Klout, I really could use some +K, as I seem to have dropped 10 points this month, from a high of 74. I could use a push climbing that hill again.

What’s behind the federal government’s turnabout leading to the crackdown on dispensaries?

I can speculate. “They”—meaning the Feds—created the Zetas to take over the Mexican drug scene and ensure that all cash would flow through designated banks. The Zetas were the cream of Mexican Special Forces, specially trained in the US and given the best weaponry and communications available. But when the Zetas were about to wipe out their competition in the most vicious drug war in Mexican history, the Feds started funding the only alternative cartel that was left standing. Which means a lot of heavy firepower needed to go into Mexico fast ... very *fast* and *furious*. When that op threatened to blow up in the media, however, they decided to go after the dispensaries. Why? Just a distraction

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Do you agree with the concept that all marijuana is medical?

No.

But do you agree with the notion that pot relieves stress, and that stress is a powerful cause of many diseases—so that there's a false distinction being made between medical and recreational use?

Pot can relieve stress for some, but for others it can cause panic attacks. I don't think there's a single policy that fits all. Marijuana can be abused, in my opinion, especially in regard to the young. If the message is that marijuana is completely safe and anyone can use all they want, then some young people will likely suffer. I tell teenagers if they can't distinguish between when it's appropriate to be intoxicated and when it's not, they might be better off

staying straight until they figure out where those boundaries are. Because they do exist.

Thankfully, when you reach our age, cannabis use becomes extremely beneficial and the downside drops away. The elderly have a license to use, because it improves sleep, appetite and sexual activity, all of which are very good for you. But teens need to restrain themselves somewhat so that cannabis intoxication doesn't interfere with their development and education. Of course, if you're making straight A's, feel free to ignore me.

High Times once published a questionnaire, including this query: "Is it possible to smoke too much pot?" And one reader responded, "I don't understand the question." How would you answer that question?

The answer is yes. First, I don't advocate smoking—vaporizing is so much healthier. Second, the less you use,

"Ceremonies happen naturally, and whether you realize it or not, they manifest constantly."

the higher you get. When you run yourself into such a jaded state that you're using cannabis all day and all night long, you really don't get the same effects as the person who waited until 4:20 p.m. I defend a person's right to determine their own substance intake and would never prescribe for others—but I am saddened by the chuckleheaded mentality that says intoxication is everything.

What's the progress been along your own personal spiritual path?

I didn't expect to end up where I am. The path of exploring cannabis spirituality just opened up before me, and since so few others seemed willing to follow it, I struck out on that trail looking for

inspiration wherever I could find it. Spirituality is just another name for energy, and it comes in flavors. The brotherhoods of death are very spiritual, as one of my favorite philosophers, Carl von Clausewitz, knew so well.

Ceremonies happen naturally, and whether you realize it or not, they manifest constantly. The real Bible is written in your heart, and the counterculture is based on improvisation and nonviolence. Those are key elements. When you're "in the flow," you're connecting with spiritual energies. As an improv comic, I'm sure you're familiar with that connection and the inspiration it can provide. Wavy Gravy is another master of the form, and so is Merry Prankster Ken Babbs. ✨

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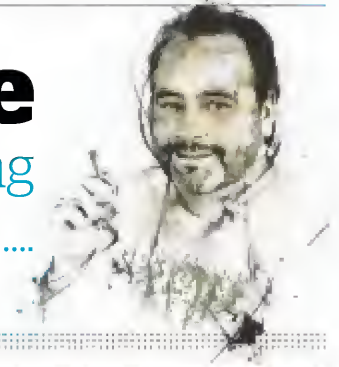
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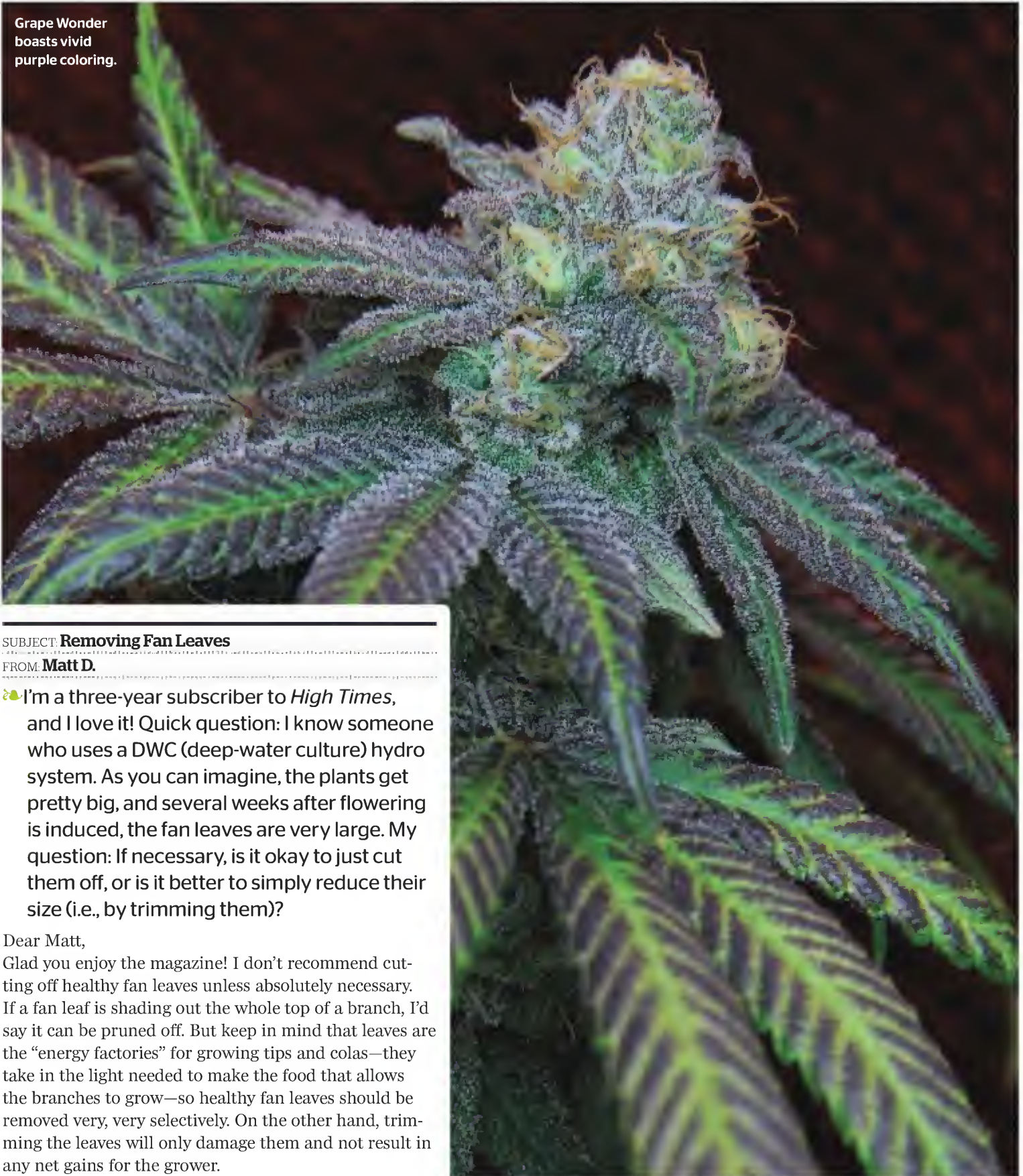
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SUBJECT **Removing Fan Leaves**

FROM **Matt D.**

🌿 I'm a three-year subscriber to *High Times*, and I love it! Quick question: I know someone who uses a DWC (deep-water culture) hydro system. As you can imagine, the plants get pretty big, and several weeks after flowering is induced, the fan leaves are very large. My question: If necessary, is it okay to just cut them off, or is it better to simply reduce their size (i.e., by trimming them)?

Dear Matt,
Glad you enjoy the magazine! I don't recommend cutting off healthy fan leaves unless absolutely necessary. If a fan leaf is shading out the whole top of a branch, I'd say it can be pruned off. But keep in mind that leaves are the "energy factories" for growing tips and colas—they take in the light needed to make the food that allows the branches to grow—so healthy fan leaves should be removed very, very selectively. On the other hand, trimming the leaves will only damage them and not result in any net gains for the grower.

Danko Tip: Never run more than one 1,000-watt high-intensity discharge (HID) light on the same 15-amp circuit.



A fish-eye look at a clean growroom setup.

SUBJECT: **Two-Parter**

FROM: **Delos in Vegas**

🌿 I have a two-part question for you. When working in the growroom during the dark period, could you cover the regular white incandescent lights, lighted digital thermometers, etc., with green plastic film in order not to disturb the photoperiod? I've heard that plants can't take in green light. Also, would it be wise to have marigolds (or any other insect-repelling plant types) in the same room as the girls?

Dear Delos,

First, it's true that cannabis plants won't absorb green light; therefore, you can enter a growroom during the dark period and see your way around if you use a green bulb. However, I wouldn't recommend trying to make one yourself: It's too risky to start experimenting with green films that may melt or fall off. (Also, ruining a crop by interrupting the dark period isn't worth it.) Instead, try one of the products made explicitly for such use. I highly recommend the Green LED Nite Light available at *stealthgrow.com* or by calling 1-800-770-9783 toll-free. These 5-watt lights are affordable as well as reliable, letting you enter your growroom at "night" without any worries.

Marigolds are a wonderful companion plant for cannabis. It's wise to have insect-repelling plants nearby, but remember that you need to keep these

plants healthy as well. Regular watering and feeding are necessary in order for them to accomplish their pest-fighting duties. Such plants work especially well outdoors between rows of ganja bushes.

SUBJECT: **Fine Powder**

FROM: **Peter in Ontario**

🌿 I'm a medical user, and my licensed grower just called to say that we have a big problem. It seems there's a fine dust showing up on most of the plants in the room. What I need to know is: How bad is this news? Is it a mold problem, or could it be happening for some other reason? The temperature is kept at a constant 78°F and the humidity at 45%. There's also more than enough venting in the room, but my grower and I are baffled and not sure what we can do to rectify the situation without losing the whole crop and getting two months behind.

Dear Peter,

Your problem could be powdery mildew (PM), or it could just be that your plants are covered with dust from the air. If the "dust" looks white, it's most likely PM, in which case you'll need to take some drastic steps to stop it from spreading and get rid of it. Start by burning sulfur to change the pH on the surface of the leaves, as well as lowering the temperature and humidity in the growroom immediately.

On the other hand, if the "dust" is

darker in color, then it probably is just dust, and you can breathe a huge sigh of relief. A simple foliar spray with plain pH-balanced water will remove it and allow the leaves to breathe again as well. It may take more than one misting, but you should see clean and healthy leaves in no time.

The best way to identify what you're dealing with is by using a microscope or loupe to take a much closer look at the surface of the leaves. You'll quickly be able to discern whether the problem is a fungus or just airborne particles.

SUBJECT: **Harsh Taste**

FROM: **JonJon**

🌿 Hey, so I have a few questions to ask because my buddy is too big of a wuss to do it himself. He has a tent setup and does pretty well with everything: The end product is always dense and stinky, and it always does the trick and looks great, but his downfall is that it smokes like shit—too harsh—and burns the throat and lungs. So, with this small bit of info, if you could please give me a few reasons as to why this might be happening, that would be awesome!

Dear JonJon,

Sounds like your buddy is having problems post-harvest: Somewhere between the flushing, drying and curing, things are going wrong. These are the factors that he needs to master in order to eliminate any harsh-tasting or crappy-burning buds.

Flushing is done within the last two weeks of the flowering period by using plain pH-balanced water instead of nutrient solution in order to leach out any remaining minerals (such as salts) from the growing medium and plants. Your buddy should pour the water until it flows heavily out of the bottom of his containers during this time. He may see a yellowing of the leaves or some other fall colors developing, but this is a good thing, since it means he's reduced the chlorophyll and other residues trapped within the buds.

Drying requires hanging the harvested buds until they're bone dry to the touch. Slow drying is essential, so your buddy shouldn't try to get it done too quickly by using fans blowing on the buds or any

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Danko Tip: The best way to detect potential light leaks is to check from inside your growroom during the dark cycle.



Alaska Bud almost dry and ready to smoke.

other method designed to speed the process up.

After at least a week of hanging and drying (depending on the ambient humidity and the temperatures where you live), the branches should snap instead of bending. Now it's time to remove the individual buds and begin the curing process in sealed glass jars. The jars should be opened at least once a day early on to remove the moist air inside and replenish it with drier fresh air. After two weeks of curing—i.e., the process by which the remaining moisture is “sweated” out of the buds—they should be ready to grind up and smoke without any harshness or difficulty burning.

SUBJECT: **Old Edibles**

FROM: **Artywryter**

🌿 I recently came across some brownies that were stored way back in my freezer. They've probably been there for 10 years and maybe even got defrosted a time or two and then refrozen. Given this history, would they still be potent and safe to ingest?

Dear Arty,
Absolutely not! Under no circumstances should you eat 10-year-old frozen pot brownies. It's easy enough to whip up a fresh batch, so my advice to you is to discard the old ones immediately and make yourself some new ones. Better yet, purchase our Official *High Times* Cannabis

Cookbook by Elise McDonough at *headshop.hightimes.com* and try out some of the many delicious treats and meals described therein.

SUBJECT: **Bigger Pots for More Pot**

FROM: **Tommy Green**

🌿 I'm hoping to increase my yields by upgrading from 5-gallon pots to larger-sized “smart” pots. But at the same time, I'm concerned that it might not be worth it due to the fact that I'm running an eight-week vegetation period in 1-gallon pots under T5 lights because of limited space. My plants are a mixture of *indica*- and *sativa*-dominant genetics and range from 1.5 to 2 feet tall by the end of the veg period.

The flowering room consists of two 600-watt metal halide (MH) lights supplemented with an additional 1,200 watts of LEDs as well as optimal CO₂ and air temperature. The soil mix I'm using is all-organic and properly fortified, and I also feed with brand-name supplements and beneficial biologicals. With all that in mind, would you recommend using the larger “smart” containers? If so, what size do you think my setup could handle? Any input you can give me would be greatly appreciated.

PS: *Free Weed* is a great podcast! I listen to every single episode and look forward to the new ones.

Dear Tommy,
Thanks for the kind words about the

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Transplanting root-bound plants greatly increases their yield.

podcast! As for your question, I do believe you could increase your yields by switching to a larger "smart" container. With two months for the vegetative stage, you have plenty of time to develop a much larger root system than you're currently able to obtain. This would directly result in stronger growth rates and heavier harvests.

The "smart" containers I think you're describing are the type with holes in the bottom and on the sides to allow more oxygen to reach the roots. Keep in mind that using them means you'll be watering more often, but when the containers are utilized properly, the results can be dramatic. The air holes encourage roots back into the mix instead of wrapping around the sides of the container, resulting in thicker root-balls and healthier plants up top.

As for the size of the pots, you can't go wrong with the 5-gallon ones you're already using. They give you enough space for plenty of root production, but without making you feel like you're wasting soil mix in some huge overkill-size container. Bigger is always better if you have the time to build a huge root system.

SUBJECT: **Seed Separator**

FROM: **Panama Red Since '70**

I've been a cannabis fan for 42 years, so here's my query: Is there a device available to separate seeds from bud? I had one in the early '70s, but the advent of sensi caused it to disappear from the market. I'm building one of my own, but for seed companies and other folks who, like me, either intentionally or accidentally produced a seeded crop, is there a readily available tool? If not, do you know of any investors that might want to help me mass-produce one? Again, I've had lots of questions over the years, and your publication has answered most of them. I thank you for that!

Dear Panama,

The only such "device" I know of was the cover of Bob Marley's Rastaman Vibration album. It had a rough burlap surface and a notice printed on the back that said: "This album jacket is great for cleaning herb." Other than that, I've only seen the occasional seed-sorting machine on my behind-the-scenes visits to cannabis-seed breeding facilities, where such custom-built devices are necessary. But someday soon, I think there will be a huge market for this type of machine, so good luck in your funding quest. ✨

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Close Examination

Teen penalties, the booze lobby and suicide.

Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

I'm worried that changes in marijuana laws aren't helping teens, who seem to get arrested the most. How can we fix this?

Samo

Hi Samo, Teens *are* overrepresented in cannabis-related arrests, and legalizing for adults doesn't address this problem. Making possession an infraction punishable by a simple fine—rather than a more complicated misdemeanor—might be the way to go. We can still discourage teen use without wasting tons of law enforcement time or clogging the court system. (Dr. Mike Males gets into the relevant details on this in an intriguing paper at cjcj.org/files/CA_Youth_Crime_2011.pdf.) The bottom line: Making teen possession charges less punitive will save time and money, while still discouraging teen use. It will also save young people from a criminal record that will dog them into their adult years, if not their entire lives.



Passing a medical marijuana law dropped per capita beer sales by about 5 percent.

which would have regulated marijuana like alcohol. Legislators who speak out against marijuana law reform frequently receive donations from the alcohol industry.

My son says that medical marijuana states have lower rates of suicide. I always heard that marijuana use leads to thoughts of suicide. Who's right?

Larry H.

I think the alcohol industry is undermining our reform efforts. My friends say I'm a paranoid conspiracy theorist. Care to comment?

Ruby Sirhan

Hi Ruby, Researchers in Montana showed that passing a medical marijuana law dropped per capita beer sales by about 5 percent. Maybe that's why alcoholic-beverage distributors donated money to an organization that opposed California's Proposition 19,

Hi Larry, "Leads to" is a slippery expression. A couple of studies have shown more symptoms of depression, including suicidal thoughts, in marijuana users. But we've got a chicken-and-egg problem here, since these folks are likely using cannabis to battle their depression, not getting depressed *because of* their marijuana use. Also, your son is correct that suicide rates are lower in medical marijuana states, but the results are significant only for men. 🌿

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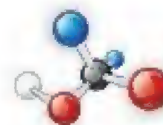
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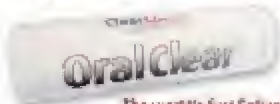
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25th High Times Cannabis Cup

I fell into this ceremonial position by accident. If John Howell hadn't asked me to help him out at *High Times*, it's likely that zero connection with cannabis spirituality would have been fostered within me in the first place. But once I founded the Cannabis Cup, the die was cast, and I soon found myself immersed in ceremonial magic.

I don't know why so many people are so confused about magic, especially since it's all around us all the time. Magic is the juice that makes every religion run, and the principles are the same wherever you find it. The rituals and ceremonies at the Cannabis Cup unfolded spontaneously, a technique I began developing after Stephen Gaskin told me that he would never prescribe a ceremony to anyone, and that ceremonies happened naturally and didn't require advance planning (although there's nothing wrong with planning a ritual).

Every year I attended the Cup, I'd spend at least a week in the Temple, chanting in front of the altar with anyone who showed up. We'd manifest whatever came into our hearts and share our energy until we reached a telepathic connection, which usually happens pretty quickly. We're very vulnerable during this process, but also extremely creative and fun-spirited. I've done these improv ceremonies with a lot of grandmasters of the art form, like Ken Kesey and Wavy Gravy, so I know the magic is real.

A few years ago, I produced the entire Cup and ran three stages in two venues simultaneously, usually with 12 to 14 bands performing during the week. All of these performers would be invited to the Temple, and they were also invited to celebrate and jam and meditate with us. At the end of the week, I'd ask the most talented among them to join the Dragons in a band to channel improvisational energy during the awards show. Some amazing performances went down thanks to this ceremony.

Meanwhile, lots of people would throw parties during the Cup week, but to be honest, the entire time I was

producing the Cup, I never attended a single party I wasn't producing myself—I was too busy. This year, however, I broke that pattern because a vocalist showed up at the Temple and sang with us one night. Her name was Ester, and she had the most amazing voice. As it turned out, Ester was performing that night at a John Sinclair party, so, of course, the Temple Dragons, including me, followed her to the show.

Much to my surprise, John performed some of the poems he'd written for the 11th Cannabis Cup, when he was the high priest inducting Pops and Mezz (Louis Armstrong and Mezz Mezzrow) into the Counterculture Hall of Fame.

Anyway, I was blown away by the show, especially by Ester and the drummer for the band. I immediately invited them all to join the Temple Dragon Band and follow us back to the Temple. Only the drummer and Ester came along, but they proved to be a godsend.

While John Sinclair was reciting his poetry, Ester came out on the dance floor and I started dancing with her. At one point, I got it into my head that Ester needed to have her aura (and her confidence) fluffed up, and I began jumping around her and fluffing her aura like crazy—something I'd never done before (or even heard of), but this urge had suddenly struck me, and I always go downstream when I'm at the Cup. In my stoned and drunken state, I guess I actually thought this fluffing was working, until I bumped into another dancer and went flying across the floor.

Of course, that's just a small piece of the magic we picked up on this year. The motto I came up with was "Love Bombs Away" as I really wanted the crew to practice going into any situation, dispensing love vibes and then disappearing like a bunch of Navy SEALs on a mission by going "poof!" Before long, we discovered that "poof!" was a magic trick of its own and could be used to dispel negative energy if everyone meditated on banishing the same vibe and bringing in something different. ✨

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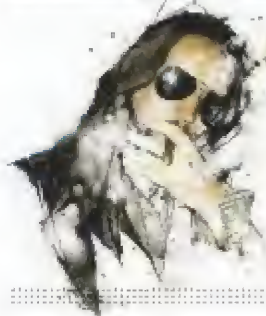


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Infamous Anniversary

Celebrating the 100th edition of Almost Infamous.

The words you're now reading mark a major milestone in my career, as they open the 100th installment of this column.

When I started working here at the world's most notorious magazine over 18 years ago, I was a mere production intern. In fact, during my entire first decade at *High Times*, I labored behind the scenes in total obscurity—designing ads, archiving issues and shipping files to the printer.

On rare occasions, I'd interview a heavy metal band for our Buzz section, but other than that, no one outside our office had ever heard of me. As my ambition to become a professional writer steadily grew, however, I realized that needed to change. So in 2000, taking a cue from my buddy Chris Eudaley (who had begun referring to himself as "Pot Star"), I adopted a nom de plume—a nickname I'd acquired that reflected my affinity for dark music and attire: Bobby Black.

In the following several years, I wrote with more frequency and gradually developed my own gonzo-style voice. Then in 2004, I got my big break: HT had shifted gears a bit—becoming more of a literary journal, and relegating most of the "pot porn" stories to a spinoff mag we called *Grow America*. The editors were looking for fresh new content, and it was at this opportune moment that I pitched the idea of writing a monthly column.

Since graduating from college into a full-time job at *High Times*, I'd been living every pot smoker's dream—blazing with celebrities, hanging backstage with big-name bands, travelling to Amsterdam for the Cannabis Cup—and a column would be the perfect way to share the awesome arsenal of untold adventures I'd accumulated. These stories would be told not from the perspective of an objective journalist, but through the eyes of that young stoner from Brooklyn who was lucky enough to land one of the coolest jobs on the planet. I decided to call it "Almost Infamous"—inspired by the film *Almost Famous*, in which a high-school kid goes to interview his favorite rock band and

ends up touring with them and working for *Rolling Stone*. Much to my delight, the editors granted my request.

For my first column, I wrote about the time I met Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi and smoked a bowl with the Prince of Darkness himself, Ozzy Osbourne. It ran in the back of *Grow America* #6; as it turned out, that would be the imprint's final issue—soon after, it was absorbed back into *High Times*. Thankfully, my

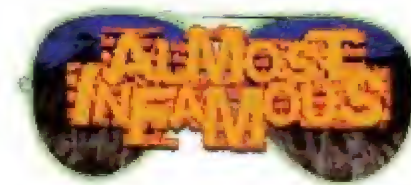
new column survived that merger. Since then, I've written about a vast array of topics: from politics, paganism and porn stars to concerts and comic books; from artists

and activism to heavy metal, Halloween and Howard Stern; from Ron Jeremy and Roger Waters to Alex Grey and Alice in Chains ... I've partied at the Playboy Mansion, gotten tattooed on a Lollapalooza tour bus, and even interviewed Cheech & Chong on the Stony Awards green carpet—and you've been right there with me all along.

While I'll never consider myself in the league of such literary legends (and former *High Times* columnists) as Paul Krassner and Charles Bukowski, I'm immeasurably proud to at least be in their company. I'm also incredibly thankful to those here at *HT* who had the faith in me to give me that opportunity, allowing me to add my own small chapter to the ongoing legacy of this most unique and iconic publication. Lastly, thanks to you—my loyal Blackolytes—for making it all worthwhile. You rock.

To commemorate this stony milestone, I've compiled my entire back catalog of columns and packaged them all into a special Best Of HT edition. That's right—all 100 columns, in their original formats, conveniently assembled into one neat file formatted for download to your desktop, smartphone or tablet. Now you can go back and reread your favorite story or check out ones you might've missed. For all the details go to hightimes.com/infamous100.

It's been a wild, weed-filled ride—one that I hope you've enjoyed taking with me, and will continue to enjoy for many more issues to come. Thanks for reading, guys. See you next month. 🌿





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The Final Chapter

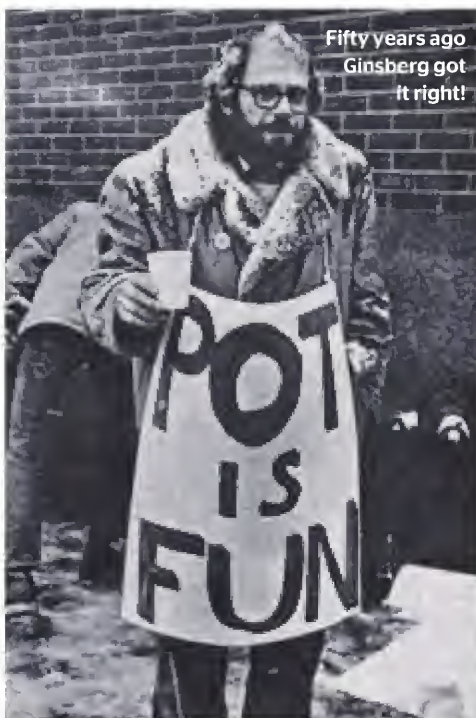
The effort to end international marijuana prohibition begins now.

Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML. Visit norml.org.

When Allen Ginsberg, the Beat poet extraordinaire and America's first recognized public advocate for legalizing cannabis, stood in the falling snow nearly 50 years ago with a sign proclaiming "Pot Is Fun," he could hardly know of the chaos to come: 27 million cannabis-related arrests, criminal sentences for people using a dried herb, and the mass drug-testing of a society.

But Ginsberg would no doubt be singing the praises—as are all cannabis consumers—of our brothers and sisters in Colorado and Washington, who voted in the majority this past November to finally, once and for all, end cannabis prohibition in their states. The voter mandates replace 75 years of failed laws with tax-and-regulate policies that allow adult consumers to purchase and use cannabis responsibly—just like alcohol products.

Along with other frustrated and courageous citizens in countries like Portugal, Uruguay, Mexico, Ireland and Jamaica, the voters of Colorado and Washington are moving their country—and its elected officials—toward logical, free-market-friendly alternatives to unsuccessful public policies. But what does the United Nations have to say about these countries and their attempts to abandon the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotics, a treaty that prohibits the cultivation, sale and



taxation of cannabis among all its signatories worldwide?

International Narcotics Control Board head Raymond Yans insists that the United States is in violation of international law and its treaty obligations, and that the federal government should move to prevent the people of Colorado and Washington from implementing their free will.

But Jonathan Caulkins, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University and co-author

of *Marijuana Legalization: What Everyone Needs to Know*, retorts, "The Constitution does not allow the federal government either to order state governments to create any particular criminal law, or to require state and local police to enforce federal criminal laws."

And *Reason* columnist Jacob Sullum notes: "A treaty that purported to require such legal subjugation would not be 'under the authority of the United States,' and any act of Congress aimed at dictating state drug laws would not be 'made in pursuance' of the Constitution."

In short, Americans make and decide our laws, not the UN's bureaucrats.

Were the victories in Colorado and Washington an aberration or political fluke? Hardly. According to Gallup and *Washington Post* polling, over 50 percent of the American public now supports legalization. The vote totals in Colorado and Washington bore that out, showing approximately 54 percent of the public in favor of legalization.

Thanks to the common sense and goodwill of these citizens—along with political leaders in other countries embracing serious drug-law reforms—we've now embarked upon the final phase of ending international cannabis prohibition, *together*.

Here we go. ✨

FREEDOM FIGHTER

by Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator

Spottedcrow Flies Free

A grassroots movement reverses a hideous injustice.

Patricia Spottedcrow never envisioned herself as a potential casualty on the front lines of the Drug War. She was living a normal life in Oklahoma with her husband and four young children when she suddenly found herself a target in our government's war on cannabis.

In December 2009, Patricia and her mother-in-law were arrested

on a charge of distributing marijuana when they sold a "dime bag"—just about \$30 worth—to a police informant. Patricia was also charged with possession of a dangerous substance in the presence of a minor, since her children were in the vicinity. She was sentenced to 10 years in prison for distribution, plus an additional two years for marijuana possession.

Her future looked bleak: a decade locked away from her kids for selling



barely more than a gram of cannabis. Fortunately, this story now has a happy ending.

Patricia's story began to garner media coverage, and the public was naturally outraged. After several campaigns that targeted local law enforcement and elected officials, as well as an especially strong grassroots effort spearheaded by outraged mothers and reformers, the lobbying paid off: Her 12-year sentence was reviewed and, in July 2012, Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin

agreed to approve Spottedcrow's parole, contingent upon her completing the community-service part of her sentence. In early December, Patricia finished that requirement and is now a free woman who has since been reunited with her family and small children.

"This is an inspirational reminder that justice still exists," says Sabrina Fendrick, the founder and director of the NORML Women's Alliance. "It proves that with cooperation and determination, grassroots efforts truly can make a significant difference."

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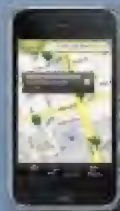
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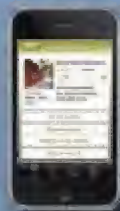
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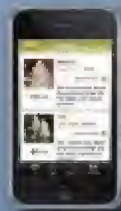
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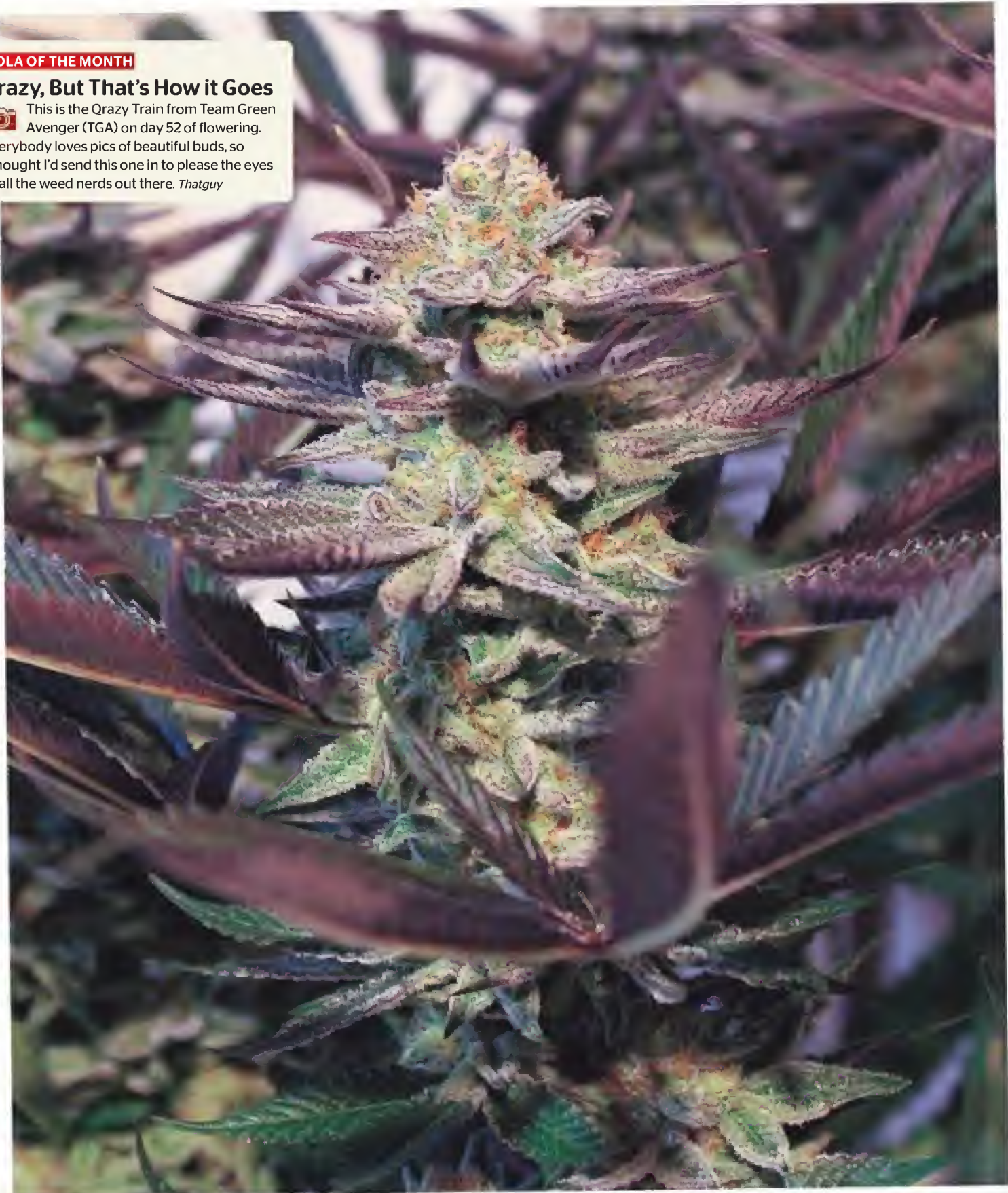
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COLA OF THE MONTH

Crazy, But That's How it Goes

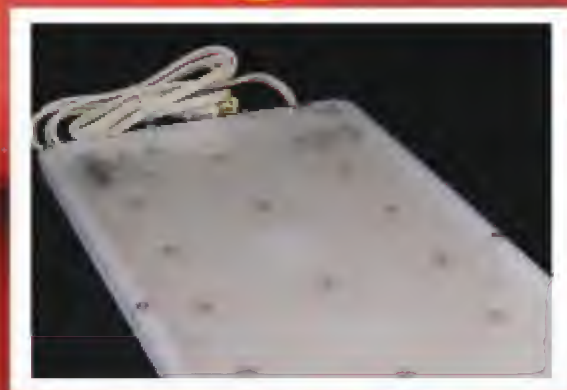
 This is the Crazy Train from Team Green Avenger (TGA) on day 52 of flowering. Everybody loves pics of beautiful buds, so I thought I'd send this one in to please the eyes of all the weed nerds out there. *Thatguy*



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HARVEST OF THE MONTH


Purple Nurple

 Not big on show-and-tell, but this is the prettiest Purp Urk (Purple Urkel) I've ever grown, and it certainly felt like a crime to light it on fire. I wish it still existed. Straight from Cleveland, OH. *Drew*



NUG OF THE MONTH

Yellowstoned

 I wanted to share a photo of the legendary Montana Silvertip, grown on the banks of the Yellowstone River here in Montana (photograph taken by Brook). *Bobby X*



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CLOSE-UP OF THE MONTH


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FLOWER OF THE MONTH


Sticky Icky

 Chemdog by Bruce and ShroomBone. Grown in aero/DWC down in the desert in New Mexico. *Amber*



GROWER OF THE MONTH

B-More Buds

 Here's a pic of me and my work. That's a Blue Widow grown under a 400-watt MH, taken in week five of flowering. It's been a dream of mine since I was a teen to make it into your great magazine, so having my pic chosen would be an absolute honor! Hope it makes the cut! *J. Rx from Baltimore, MD*

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Editorial director Dan Skye treks across the country to visit some highly productive gardens—the kind that allow their growers to dream *and* yield big—and shares the secrets of their spectacular success.

► Spring Pot-Planting Guide

Our panel of cultivation experts provides the real deal on proper techniques for seed germination, plant cloning, mother-plant maintenance, vegging, pruning, foliar feeding and more ... just in time for spring!

► All About Terpenes

Contrary to popular belief, it's not THC content alone that makes a cannabis plant special: When it comes to taste, smell and each strain's unique "feel," it's all about the terpenes.

► Hitman Glass

Their revolutionary torch tubes and killer collaborations have made Hitman Glass the hottest name in dab paraphernalia. Senior editor Bobby Black sits down with the company's founder, Dougie Fresh, for a game of "concentrate chess."

► Hunter S. Thompson's NORML Years

Beginning in the early '70s, the infamous gonzo journalist was a huge supporter of marijuana law reform. Founder Keith Stroup recalls the hilarious story of how Thompson decided to jump aboard the NORML train.

► The Man Behind the Mustache

Nick Offerman of *Parks and Recreation* sits down for a rollicking *HT* interview, armed with his very own handcrafted pipe and stash box. Along the way, he helps us enjoy an artisanal batch of Maple Bacon Ganja Chocolate Chip Cookies (recipe included)!

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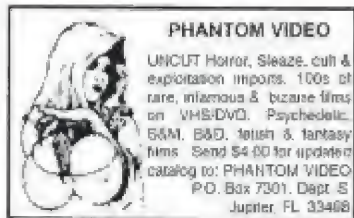
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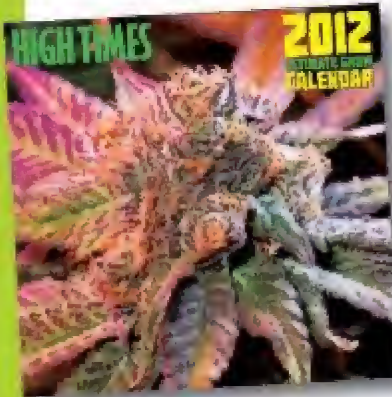


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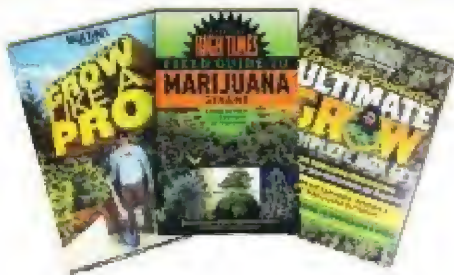
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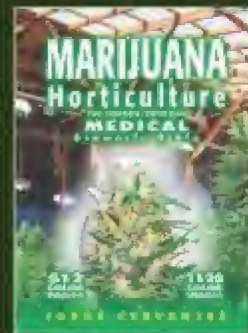


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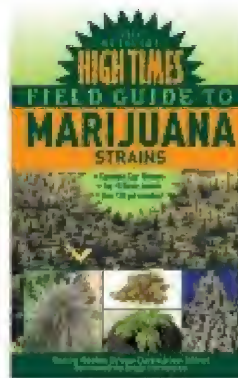


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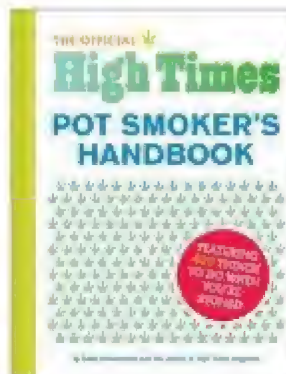
High Times Books



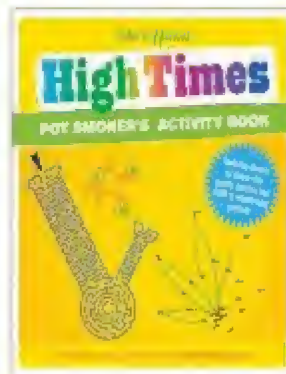
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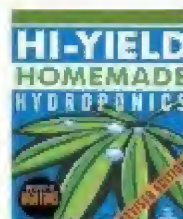
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1 **Free Weed**

2 **Reschedule Cannabis**
egalize

3 **EMP**

4 **Smoke 2 joints @ 8:40**



6 **SENDING POSITIVE VIBES TO Tommy Chong**

7 **EMISH**

8 **CLOUD VAPE DISCREETLY**

9 Tee off at **THE GRAND WAZ**
the High Times Open
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11 **We** have all been blessed by the good citizens of Colorado & Washington State. You have shown that the future we all desire is ours that the taking if we continue our efforts. Thank You!



14 **Jens Music Stash**
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15 **CONGRATULATIONS Cannabis Cup Winners!**

16 **April Stickers**
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17 **We are the music makers, we are the dreamers of dreams**

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25 **FREE DANA BEAL**

26 **Weed Pass is Dead - Let's all raise a Heineken!**

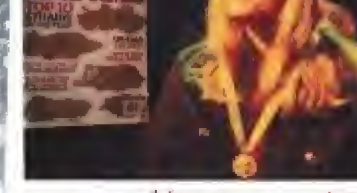
27 **VISIT the Hemp Hotel**
in Amsterdam

28 **ASAP Rocky**



31 **OIL-710**

32 **Pebby Goldsberry**



33 **"Satin blouse unbuttoning, satin blouse unbuttoning / Time is a stripper doin' it just for you"**
Garcia/Hunter

34 **Write to POT Prisoners**

35 **We Slayed the Dragon**

36 **WHO'S GOT THE HERB?**

37 **FIGHT for your right to PARTY** - Beastie Boys

38 **if we all had a boss we would all get along**

39 **RECREATE -OR- MEDICATE?**

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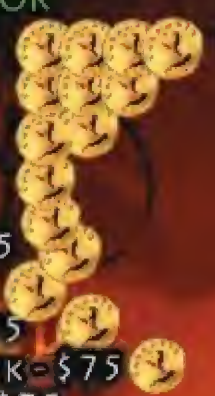
- BC PINEWARP - \$75
- OUTDOOR MIX - \$50
- TEXADA TIMEWARP - \$75

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- BC GOD BUD - \$150 ♀
- THE PURPS - \$150 ♀
- ORIGINAL BLUEBERRY - \$150 ♀
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